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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 13 Apr

LD1304062795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0618 GMT 13 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The prinipal topic in today's Moscow-based newspapers is the holding of a day of collective protest action by trade unions on April 12.

TRUD writes that "the protest action organised by trade unions has graphically shown the level of social strain in society. However, one could not expect anything different. There are no calls any longer "from above" to exercise patience. Employers simply cease paying wages to workers. According to the Federation of the Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR), wage arrears in the country as a whole have amounted to 5,600,000 million roubles".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that "for the first time during the term of office of President Boris Yeltsin, Russian trade unions came forward not only with political demands but also with economic ones. In many places, opposition parties and movements solidarised with trade unions".

"Pickets involving more than 5,000 were arranged in Moscow outside the government house on the initiative of the Moscow Federation of Trade Unions and various communist organisations and parties.

"The main slogans were the repayment of wage arrears, the taking of real measures to save the national industry, the keeping of jobs, and the indexation of the population's incomes. In addition, many picketeers also demanded the government's resignation and the holding of parliamentary and presidential elections on schedule".

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, in an article headlined "Chubays failed to feed 15 million working people with tall stories", writes:

"The trade unions, which gain points in the endless litigation with the present cabinet have chosen new tactics, it seems. It is no longer enough for them to knock out lump-sum allowances for the particularly needy enterprises and sectors.

"The question asked increasingly often is what should be done to replenish the budget revenue to the maximum without curtailing social spending too much. Among other recipes, there is the following advice: introduce state monopoly on the production and sale of alcohol, petrol and cigarettes. But since the government opposes that in every way, prospects are not quite bright for it so far."

IZVESTIYA, referring to data received from the FITUR, states that by 14.00 on Wednesday meetings, rallies, picketing and work stoppages at enterprises for two hours had taken place throughout Russia. In Primorye (Maritime Territory) alone, where the problem of wage arrears is particularly acute, collective actions involved about half a million workers.

SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA writes that "the Russian trade unions' protest actions received unprecedetedly vigorous support throughout the world. As of noon on Wednesday, the FITUR had received messages from 32 foreign trade union centres and national sectoral trade unions, and 17 messages from international trade union associatoins expressing solidarity with the working people of Russia".

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (Red Star) carries an interview with Lieutenant- General Igor Mezhakov, deputy director of Russia's Federal Security Service, who dwelt on the problems of Chechnya.

"We now have a large number of helpers from among the local population, since an absolute majority of the republic's population have suffered from the (Djokhar) Dudayev regime...

"There is a convinced opposition. Albeit a passive one in their majority. The task is to convince them of the need to join in assistance. In most cases, we succeed in that. We get to learn where captives are held and where Dudayev forces are being concentrated".

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA runs an interview with Vladimir Gusev, head of Russia's State Taxation Service, who said: "As of now, taxes amounting to 13,000,000 million roubles have been levied, presented but not turned in. This is the direct consequense of the crisis of mutual debts. The fuel and power sector is one of major debtors."

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI on republics' debts to Russia:

"The ex-Soviet republics' debts for Russian energy resources in March 1995 ran at 13,309,000 million roubles, i.e. grew by more than 2,000,000 million roubles within a month."

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI on the crime situation in Russia:

"More than 32,000 wilful murders were committed in Russia in 1994, more than twice as many as in 1992-1993. The number of contract killings mounted up to 562 as against 289 in 1993."

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA on the persecution of journalists:

"The persecution of journalists and the press on the territory of the former Soviet Union continued in March this year. Six journalists were killed, two beaten up, and 20 are being persecuted by the state."

U.S. Said To Take 'Hard-Line Position' in Talks With DPRK

SK1304033795 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in Korean 1200 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Commentary by Aleksey Kondratyev from the "Today's World" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] The third DPRK-U.S. working negotiations on light-water reactors will resume on 12 April in Berlin. We carry commentary by Aleksey Kondratyev.

The sides suspended last March's working negotiations without elaborating on why they did. However, it has been reported the DPRK resolutely rejected the ROK-model light-water reactors and asked the United States to provide it with U.S.-made light-water reactors.

Under provisions of the DPRK-U.S. agreement signed last year, Pyongyang has frozen its nuclear program. Providing safer light-water reactors has now been put on the order of the day. The United States, Japan, and the ROK have established an international consortium to resolve this issue. They have decided to provide Pyongyang with South Korean-made light-water reactors. Pyongyang has resolutely rejected ROK-model light-water reactors and expressed its interest in light-water reactors from other countries, in particular, from Russia. As a result, the plan to replace DPRK nuclear facilities ran into a difficulty.

The DPRK and the United States have been holding negotiations in Berlin to resolve those differences in views. It is clear the negotiations will not proceed smoothly. This is because the participants in the negotiations insist on their own positions. Moreover, Washington is assuming a more hard-line position. In rejecting Pyongyang's proposal for providing U.S.-made light-water reactors, Washington denounced Pyongyang for trying to fulfill its political goals in the negotiations. The United States has again threatened to impose the so-called international sanctions through the United Nations in case the DPRK resumes the operation of its nuclear reactors while rejecting the ROK-model light-water reactors.

Hans Blix, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has stated that Pyongyang is sincerely implementing the provisions of the DPRK-U.S. agreement on the nuclear problem.

The DPRK has again resolutely rejected the ROK-model light-water reactors. The United States seems to be putting more pressure on the DPRK at the Berlin negotiations. However, outside pressure on the DPRK has often brought about the opposite results. This is a well-known fact. The best way to overcome the current crisis seems to be to fully consider Pyongyang's positions on replacing its nuclear facilities.

Kozyrev Leaves For Italy, Hopes To End 'Pause' in Relations

LD1204092095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0754 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Kozlov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Issues of bilateral cooperation will highlight the talks of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Italy where he left [for] on a working visit Wednesday.

The Russian side hopes that the visit will give the necessary impulse to bilateral relations after a certain "pause" which existed since the visit of former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi to Russia last October.

Kozyrev, who is to meet the Italian president, the prime minister and the foreign minister, will try to attract Italian investments into the Russian economy, to agree on rescheduling the Russian foreign debt, will negotiate the creation of the council for economic cooperation and will also probe the possibility of cooperation in a completely new sphere—the military-technical one.

International problems will also be discussed, including the issues of European security, the NATO expansion plans, the settlement in former Yugoslavia and the development of cooperation in the Mediterranean region.

From Italy Kozyrev will fly to Greece to meet the leadership of the country and to attend a meeting of his counterparts from Black Sea region countries on economic cooperation.

Discusses NATO Expansion With Foreign Minister

LD1204180795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1659 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Aleksey Bukalov, Aleksey Golyayev, and Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Rome, 12 Apr—Italy is maintaining some restraint with regard to the planned NATO expansion, and believes that this issue should not be hurried. "It is nessessary to approach this problem gradually and to allow time for reflection," Italian Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli said in reply to a question from ITAR-TASS. She said that at talks with [Russian Foreign Minister] Andrey Kozyrev, the sides showed the closeness of their positions.

Russia's foreign minister said that on the results of talks at the Italian Foreign Ministry, it was decided to set up a working group which would exchange views on the future of European security in view of the changing situation on the continent. Such a dialogue is in the interest of both countries, the Russian foreign minister said.

Apart from this, experts from the foreign ministries will hold regular working consultations, including between consular departments. Special attention will be paid to such topical international problems as the situation in the Middle East and the Balkans. In this connection, Kozyrev reiterated Russia's readiness to contribute to the activities of the United Nations on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

Great attention was paid during the talks in Rome to economic issues. The sides believe that their great potential has not been fully utilized. Kozyrev told correspondents that a bilateral economic commission will being working in the near future. It will outline specific recommendations in this area, in particular with regard to protecting foreign investments in Russia.

Lebed Predicts NATO Expansion Will Unleash 'World War III'

AU1304084895 Prague LIDOVE NOVINY in Czech 12 Apr 95 p 6

[Interview with General Alexandr Lebed, leader of the Congress of Russian Communities, by Petra Prochazkova in Moscow; date not given: "Expanding NATO Will Lead to a World War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandr Ivanovich Lebed is one of the most popular generals in the Russian Army. He is considered to be an exceptionally capable commander, who has unprecedented authority among the troops. The 45-year-old general entered officially into political life this weekend. He was elected to the leadership of the Congress of Russian Communities. The main campaign slogans of this association are protection for the 25 million Russians who, following the collapse of the USSR, found themselves beyond Russia's borders and promoting Russia's national interests.

[Prochazkova] You often criticize the current situation in the Russian Army; you say that Russia's security is insufficiently guaranteed. In your opinion, how should the army protect Russia's national interests?

[Lebed] It would take me three days to answer such a complex question. But, the most fundamental thing is that the army must be based on Russian foundations and traditions. The army is, first and foremost, the guarantor of our security and, because it protects our national interests, it must be a purely Russian Army. Not German, American, or Japanese.

[Prochazkova] In your view, does NATO represent a threat to Russia?

[Lebed] Of course, this organization is a major threat to us.

[Prochazkova] What will happen, then, if the North Atlantic Alliance expands to include countries such as the Czech Republic or Poland?

[Lebed] World War III will begin. Civilized and uncivilized states will perish. Everything and everyone.

[Prochazkova] In your view, who will unleash the war?

[Lebed] NATO, of course. It will begin by the very approach of its troops to our borders. I do not understand you. Earlier, we had the Warsaw Pact and NATO—two hostile blocs. The Cold War has come to an end, and I am wondering why we have not erected a statue of Bush in the place where Dzerzhinskiy stood and inscribed under it: "To the Victors of the Cold War." They simply won it, we all agree with this. So why have you now decided again to oppose someone? Against whom do you want to ally yourselves militarily?

[Prochazkova] Why should the alliance be interested in a war with Russia?

[Lebed] Are you perhaps not aware how big Russia's territory is? It represents one eighth of the world and you will find everything here—150 million people and the results of their labor; natural resources. They would like that. But they will not succeed. NATO will not even be expanded.

[Prochazkova] How do you intend to prevent this?

[Lebed] That is a military secret.

Lebed made a name for himself during the war in Afghanistan. In 1989, he was sent to Tbilisi where, in breaking up a demonstration, his troops killed almost 20 people with spades. He became acquainted with current Russian President Boris Yeltsin during the 1991 coup attempt. A year later, he was made commander of the notorious 14th Army, with whose assistance the Dniester region was de facto severed from Moldova. He is a harsh critic of the Russian Army's tactics in Chechnya and, after Russia suffered major losses in the Caucasus, he volunteered to assume command of the operation. In view of the enmity that prevails between him and Russian Defense Minister Grachev, Lebed was turned down. Russian patriots would be happy to see him in the role of president.

EBRD To Offer $25 Million for Komi Oil Spill Clean-Up

LD1204180195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 12 (PIA, Interfax)—On Tuesday the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) completed talks with the Russian government on a $25 million term loan to eliminate the consequences of a major oil pipeline breakdown in Komi, North Russia.

A source in the government told Interfax's Petroleum Information Agency that the loan will be discussed by the Board of Directors of the bank on May 2.

Earlier the government reached agreement with the World Bank on funding the cleanup of polluted areas and collection of oil that spilled last August from a pipeline belonging to Komineft corporation. The World Bank will pass a final decision on a $100 million loan on April 25.

All the stages of the cleanup operation are expected to be financed jointly by the two banks. However, the government source did not rule out the possibility of using part of the European loan for funding research on an environmentally safe system of oil pipelines in the region.

Zagreb Embassy Addresses 'Scandal' Involving Russian UN Commander

LD1204120395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1058 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Naryshkin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Zagreb April 12 TASS—The scandal with the Russian commander of UN peacekeepers in a Serb-held enclave of Croatia should not smear the Russian rank-and-file "blue helmets" serving there, a Russian Embassy official in Zagreb told TASS Wednesday.

Major General Aleksandr Perelyakin, commander of the Russian and Belgian troops in eastern Croatia, was dismissed for gross misconduct three weeks ahead of his scheduled replacement. UN chief spokesman in former Yugoslavia Michael Williams said Perelyakin was sacked "in view of severe shortcomings in his performance" and for "discipline and morale problems in his sector".

"The decision to dismiss Perelyakin should be distinguished from the prestige of the Russian contingent acting within the international peace-keeping mission in Croatia and Bosnia- Herzegovina", the high-ranking embassy official told TASS.

Russia has two battalions in former Yugoslavia. One is deployed near the airport of Klis in Croatia and another in Sarajevo.

"Neither Croatian, nor Bosnian authorities had any complaints to them", the official said quoting information from the foreign ministries of the two republics.

The official refused to comment on the correctness of the decision to sack Perelyakin saying this is the job of the UN Secretariat in New York.

"That is their decision and it is hard for the embassy in Zagreb to judge whether it was sufficiently motivated", he said.

General Perelyakin Removed From Post

MM1204162195 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 13 Apr 95 pp 1-2

[Report by Mikhail Yusin: "United Nations Dismisses Russian General"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Major General Aleksandr Perelyakin, who was in command of the "East" sector of the UN peacekeeping forces in Croatia, has been removed from his post. This sensational news was read out at a press conference in Zagreb by "blue helmets" spokesman Michael Williams.

He said that the general is charged with failing to fulfill the orders of the command, arbitrary actions, and "the unsatisfactory state of military discipline" on the sector entrusted to him. Yet from the numerous interviews which staffers of the UN mission in Croatia have given in recent days it is clear that the charge is far more serious. Behind the formula "unsatisfactory state of military discipline" there lie numerous instances of the trade in fuel and lubricants reported by the press and UN sources. "Corruption among the Russians has reached incredible dimensions," REUTER was told by an unnamed representative of the "blue helmets."

Moreover, the Croatian authorities have frequently accused the soldiers and officers of the Russian battalion of sympathy for the Serbs. The most serious incident occurred in late March when, according to Croatian and Western mass media, with Perelyakin's blessing 25 armored vehicles and several hundred Yugoslav Army servicemen were shipped from Serbia to the territory of the self- proclaimed Republic of Serbian Krajina. In April another convoy of tanks and armored vehicles followed the same route. The attempts of Belgian UN soldiers to prevent the illegal crossing of the border were, journalists say, stopped by Russian officers.

Moscow has categorically denied the charges. The UN troops command is so far refraining from categorical assessments. Which, however, did not prevent Michael Williams, when answering journalists' questions, from giving a transparent hint that the epic involving the Serbian tanks was one reason for Perelyakin's dismissal.

During their two years in Croatia this is not the first time the Russian peacemakers have been at the center of scandals. The most notorious so far was the case of Colonel Viktor Loginov, commander of a "blue helmets" battalion, dismissed in 1993 on a charge of corruption. The press claimed that the battalion commander received a white Mercedes as a gift to the Serbs. for services rendered.

In contrast to Loginov, Perelyakin was in command not simply of a battalion but of a whole sector which, in addition to Russian peacekeeping forces, includes a Belgian battalion. According to the news agencies from the outside the major general's relations with the Belgians were tense. He did not always find a "common language" with the "blue helmets" command.

By the time this issue of IZVESTIYA was being signed to press there had been no official reaction from Moscow. In the opinion of a high-ranking diplomat "there has been an annoying, unpleasant story, and at a most unsuitable moment." One could understand from what he said that Moscow has not managed to agree with the UN secretariat and find a way out of the situation which would enable both sides to save face. On Smolensk

Square it is believed that the majority of charges leveled against General Perelyakin do not accord with reality.

At the end of last year two commissions studied instances of corruption in the Russian battalion. Virtually none of the charges was confirmed except for cases of the resale of fuel and lubricants.

Moscow's dissatisfaction is aggravated by the fact that in three weeks the general was to have left his post anyway and handed over command of the sector to his Belgian counterpart. But the "blue helmets" leadership displayed firmness and despite Moscow's entreaties he did not manage to avoid publicity.

The Perelyakin scandal has played into the hands of the Croatian authorities, convinced that the Russian peacemakers hold pro-Serbian positions. Demands to withdraw the Russian battalion were particularly intensified after the recent signing of the treaty on military cooperation between Moscow and Belgrade, giving grounds for doubting Russia's objectivity. Moreover, in the very near future the numerical strength of the UN contingent in Croatia will be reduced from 14,000 to 8,000. It is not hard to predict that Zagreb will make every effort to ensure that the Russians are included among the cutbacks, in addition to the peacemakers from Asian and African states. But on Smolensk Square they believe it is unlikely that the UN leadership will enter into conflict with a permanent member of the Security Council and meet the Croats' demands.

Dismissal Will Not Change Moscow's Stance

LD1204170895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 12 (Interfax)—The dismissal of Russian Major-General Aleksandr Perelyakin from the post of UNPROFOR Commander in the East sector (Croatia) will not change the stand of Moscow in the United Nations and the contact group, a high-ranking Russian diplomat told Interfax today.

A reason for the General's dismissal from the commander's post in the sector where Russian and Belgian troops are stationed was caused by "serious drawbacks and inability to eliminate them after repeated instructions."

"There are no claims to Russian battalions which are part of the UNPROFOR. Claims are only laid to General Perelyakin, who was appointed to the commander's post and is an international functionary," stressed the diplomat.

In his words, the "dismissal is unpleasant and unusual, but it has nothing to do with the activities of the Russian contingent and Russian presence in the conflict zone."

"In accordance with the UNPROFOR principle of succession," the new UNPROFOR commander in the East sector will be a Belgian.

The diplomat refuted media reports claiming problems in relations between Russian and Belgian contingents. "We have no such information. Russian and Belgians are cooperating," he stressed.

Croatia Said To Seek Ouster of Russian Units

LD1204174295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1332 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Inan Ivanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Belgrade, April 12 TASS—A high-ranking official of the Russian peacekeepers in eastern Croatia said on Wednesday that the dismissal of Maj. Gen. Aleksandr Perelyakin, commander of the U.N.-controlled "East" sector, was aimed at making the Russian battalion withdraw from Croatia.

The official, speaking to TASS on conditions of anonymity, said that the U.N. headquarters' decision had been prompted by Zagreb demands "backed by certain circles in the West to make peacekeepers in Croatia homogenous, consisting strictly of representatives from NATO countries".

If the Russian battalion leaves Krajina Serb, it will "affect Russia's possibilities to participate in the Yugoslav setttlement as a whole", he stressed.

Michael Williams, spokesman for the U.N. Zagreb headquarters, said on Tuesday that General Perelyakin had been dismissed due to "unsatisfactory military discipline and morale" in his sector, discovered by U.N. inspectors.

A source in the U.N. Zagreb headquarters told TASS that the decision had been also prompted by Perelyakin's failure to follow orders from his U.N. authorities.

Last october, Russian controllers inspected the situation in the "East" sector, and concluded it was satisfactory.

Chernomyrdin, Albania's Meksi Sign Agreements

LD1104122395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1140 GMT 11 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 11 TASS—Five intergovernmental agreements between Russia and Albania were signed on a basis of the negotiations held on Tuesday by Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Aleksander Meksi. These are agreements on trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation, on avoiding double taxation, on encouragement and mutual protection of capital investment, on cultural and scientific cooperation, as well as a concular convention. The state treaty on friendship and cooperation was also initialled.

The Albanian prime minister told journalists that today he plans to invite Viktor Chernomyrdin to pay an official visit to the Albanian capital, Tirana.

Chernomyrdin said there should be a breakthrough in the area of economic cooperation between Albania and Russia. He believes there is a potential for this. There are specific plans—the construction of a gas pipeline to Albania and the formation of the infrastructure in energetics.

Commenting on the political situation in the Balkans, the Russian prime minister said that Moscow is prepared to promote peaceful settlement of the Balkan crisis.

Meksi Meets Leading Trade Unionist

LD1204175095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1001 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Apr—A government delegation from the Republic of Albania, headed by Aleksander Meksi, chairman of the Albanian Council of Ministers, which is now on an official visit in Moscow, today visited the headquarters of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs [RUIE]. Arkadiy Volskiy, chairman and coordinator of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs and president of the RUIE, welcomed the guests.

Arkadiy Volskiy expressed his wish to establish business contacts with Albanian industrialists, and he invited a delegation from business circles in the Republic of Albania to take part, as guests, in the next assembly of the International Congress of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, which will take place in Chisinau, capital of the Republic of Moldova, and then to join this organization.

Having advised the Albanian guests of the history of the Russian Industrialists' Association and the structure of the RUIE, Arkadiy Volskiy noted that since the charter of this public organization does not envisage its participation in political action, the need has arisen—in connection with the upcoming elections—to create a party that will express the political interests of Russian entrepreneurs of a centrist disposition. The creation of a Russian united industrial party has been prompted by the actions of regional associations of industrialists, who registered their party organizations locally. The first congress of this party will take place in Moscow on 10 April [date as received].

Aleksander Meksi, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania, and other members of the government delegation expressed interest in establishing business contacts with Russian industrialists, and said that specific steps in this direction will be taken in the near future.

Moscow Mayor Luzhkov Meets Albanian Prime Minister

LD1204225595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1302 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Sugak]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Apr—Moscow's Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov today met Albanian Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi who is on official visit to Russia.

Yuriy Luzhkov noted that the visit of the leader of the Albanian Government and the upcoming visit to Moscow of the mayor of Tirana are due to create good preconditions for friendly relations between the two capital cities, and to set out paths for future economic, trade, and cultural cooperation. He described as unnatural and erroneous the relations that had existed until now between Albania and the Soviet Union.

The Moscow mayor told the prime minister and those accompanying him about what is happening today in the Russian capital, and about its tasks and prospects on the path to a transition to a market economy. He stressed that Moscow is an independent component of the Federation, and has a law on the status of the capital and lives according to its rules that are defined by the Constitution of the Russian Federation and on the basis of Moscow's own laws.

Albanian Prime Minister Aleksander Meksi expressed the hope that Tirana and Moscow will cooperate together in a fruitful manner.

Iran 'Important Direction' in Economic Policy

MM1304091695 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Vadim Markushin: "The Russian Opportunity in Iran Does Not Inspire the Americans"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Americans should be given due credit for their ability to exploit the current moment in the struggle for the strategic perspective. Having joined the campaign to criticize the "revisionists" of the nuclear nonproliferation regime, they are addressing grim warnings to those who run on the "irresponsible" ticket. That is, to those who do not enjoy Washington's favor at this historical moment.

There is a special mark against Iran on this blacklist. The former ward and partner, now ostracized for "state extremism," is formulating an independent line of economic cooperation with Russia. An important place in this is occupied by a contract to install Russian light-water nuclear reactors in Iran, of which sufficient has already been written. But the Americans, who are capable of seeing the wood clearly in spite of the trees, are obviously concerned not so much about the ill-starred billion-[currency not specified] contract as about the fundamental shift in Russian-Iranian business ties. Hence all the hullabaloo.

U.S. politicians have suffered from the syndrome of rejection of Moscow's presence in the Middle East since the great confrontation with the Soviet Union. You get the impression that it has never left them, despite the euphoria of fraternization that has occurred since the end of the "Cold War." True, this syndrome is no longer manifested here under the sign of rivalry with the "evil empire," but from positions of the most recent U.S. chauvinism: If not us, then still less you. Clearly, it is not just everyday state egoism that lies behind this formula. There is a clearly discernible intention of changing the ideological eras in Iran and liberalizing the country.

Iran, with its population of 60 million, has the world's second largest natural gas stocks and fourth largest oil reserves. It has a lot of iron ore, chromites, sulfur, manganese, lead, and other very valuable minerals. In this connection Washington has always regarded Iranian territory as an important region for capital investment. The 1979 Islamic revolution, which took place under anti-U.S. banners, not only eliminated the "special" status of relations with Tehran but also essentially led to the destruction of close economic ties with that country. But U.S. companies never dismissed the promising Iranian market and observed closely the changes in the political situation. The U.S. Administration had only to ease very slightly the restrictions on trade in connection with the release of hostages from the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, and a number of companies at once took advantage of that to arrange the delivery there of electronic equipment and computers. It is obvious that, given the relations which have taken shape between Washington and the present Iranian regime, it is most advantageous to the Americans to encourage Iran's economic isolation by curbing as far as possible its penetration by companies of third countries, primarily Russian ones, and their consolidation there.

Meanwhile, Moscow is not inclined in certain circumstances to choose its economic partners by the color of their ideological banners. Given an abundance of domestic problems, it behaves pragmatically and firmly holds its own. Particularly as, in its polemics with Washington, it has in reserve an argument that can hardly be rejected: The Americans themselves maintain intensive links with Iran on the oil market—through third countries and through daughter firms outside the United States. Some sources maintain that these ties ensure a trade turnover with Iran which is 100 times greater than what is openly declared ($50 million).

While high-ranking Russian officials are being worked upon by equally high-ranking officials from Washington, Russian industrialists are quietly mounting an offensive on the Iranian market. Thus, the past month has consolidated some significant, fundamental plans. For example, for the production of Il-114 aircraft, which will be assembled from Russian assemblies at an Iranian plant. In addition, the Iranians intend to buy Yak-40's and Yak-42's from us. In the near future all these aircraft will, in total, take on up to 80 percent of air transport operations in Iran.

There are also other prospects. In particular, those connected with deliveries of oil equipment to Iran. According to ITAR-TASS' information, the Iranians have allegedly even declared that they have already "put aside money" under this heading. The same source reports Russia's readiness to supply Iran with another (third) diesel submarine which they have ordered. For this, however, "it is necessary to receive from Tehran at least a prepayment."

In general, it seems that the Indian option, whereby Russia agreed, under U.S. pressure, to cut back the contract to sell cryogenic engines to India, will not be repeated with the Russian- Iranian agreement. This opens up for Russia an important direction in its foreign economic policy.

Grachev Against Increasing Forces in Tajikistan

LD1204172095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] IRKUTSK, April 12 (Interfax)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev opposes the reinforcement of the Russian military contingent in Tajikistan in connection with the sharply deteriorating situation in the Central Asian republic.

"I am not prone to decide to increase the strength of Russian peacekeeping forces in Tajikistan," the minister told Interfax today.

He said that the Tajik leadership is not fully using its own means of settling the conflict.

"Being an independent state, it should mainly use its own forces—national troops and other military units—in the solution of domestic problems," said the minister.

In his opinion, "the stake on settlement of the Tajik conflict solely by force is unpromising." The minister noted that settlement of the internal political conflict in the Central Asian republic is also "slow to progress."

Grachev thinks it is inadmissible to use the Russian Armed Forces and border troops for "localization of gangs inside Tajikistan. This is not the task of the army or the border troops," he added.

Grachev is currently on a working trip to strategic missile troops. Today he visited a separate missile regiment stationed near Irkutsk.

Chinese Poachers Kill Russian Border Guard Captain

LD1204140895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1250 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Konoplitskiy]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok April 12 TASS—Chinese transgressors, hunting frogs on the Russian side of the border, opened fire on border guards and killed

Captain Sergey Dashuk Wednesday, TASS learned from the Pacific Border District press centre.

Two of the three violators succeeded to flee back to China, while the third was wounded and captured by the guards.

The Chinese were hunting frogs which are of high demand in China, presenting one of the most delicious items of the cuisine. Frogs are still plenty in the taiga on the Russian side of the border.

Last weekend, Russian border guards twice detained groups of Chinese frog hunters. Both accidents passed without shooting.

The border district press centre said the three violators were spotted at noon Wednesday in the Khasan region, the most southern point of the Maritime Territory in the far east.

They ignored the order to stop and opened fire after the border guards fired warning shots. Dashuk, who was the head of the "Shkolnaya" border post, was killed.

Two of the violators escaped back to China, while the third was wounded in the clash and taken to the border post. A carbine with catridges was seized from him.

The other two border guards, Lieutenant Oleg Kalashnikov and Sergeant Kadrak, were not injured.

Russian, PRC Officials To Meet on Killing

LD1204213095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1826 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—Director of the Russian Federal Border Service, Lieutenant-General Andrey Nikolayev, informed a press conference here today that a delegation of the Russian border authorities is due to meet their Chinese counterparts on April 13.

The contact will be about the search of Chinese citizens who were involved in today's border incident which occurred at 0:30 local time at outpost No. 6 of the Posyetskyy border headquarters.

A Russian reconnaissance and search group, including the outpost's commander Captain Dashuk, his deputy Lieutenant Kalashnikov and Sergeant Kondrat, started on a conventional guarding route in the night. A signal from an alarm device exposed three Chinese, who fled and were pursued by the border guards.

The Chinese intruders used arms, and a clash followed, in which one of the Chinese was seized and Captain Dashuk was lethally wounded.

Chinese Spokesman 'Evaded' Evaluation of Incident

LD1304110195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1021 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Marat Abulkhatin and Grigoriy Arslanov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing April 13 TASS—A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, pleading lack of information, evaded an evaluation of the April 12 armed incident in the area of Sino-Russian border.

In response to a question as to whether the incident would influence the development of Sino-Russian relations, Chen Jian, head of the ministry's press department, said Russia and China maintain fine relations of goodneighbourliness and cooperation.

Chinese news media did not report up to now anything about the incident which resulted in the killing of a Russian border picket commander.

Delivery of 18 MiG-29s to Malaysia To Be Completed by May

LD1204193495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (Interfax)—Russia will carry out the contract on delivering to Malaysia 18 MIG-29 jets worth $560 million in May, in accordance with the earlier set and coordinated schedule, Advisor of the Moscow Aviation Industrial Organization Director General Aleksandr Ageyev told Interfax today.

He said that the five first jets had already come to Malaysia several days ago. Another 6-7 planes will be delivered by the end of April. The contract's implementation will be completed in May.

All MiG-29 jets have been tuned by the Moscow Aviation Industrial Organization as the order demanded. The capacity of engines was raised from 750 to 2000 hours. The plane's construction and equipment were changed.

Malaysia will pay a part of the contract's cost by delivering to Russia palm oil.

Political Issues

Yeltsin To Meet With Federal Border Service Chief in Sochi

LD1304094895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0910 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sochi, 13 Apr—Andrey Nikolayev, director of the Russian Federal Border Service [FPS], arrived in Sochi today.

Informed sources have told an ITAR-TASS correspondent that Boris Yeltsin, who is vacationing in Sochi, will see the FPS director "in the near future."

The Russian president and the head of the border department are expected to discuss the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border, where battles with the armed opposition have been raging since 7 April, as well as the situation in the north Caucasus and the Abkhazian sector of the Russian-Georgian border.

Filatov: Administration Assuming Yeltsin To Seek Reelection

LD1004181795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1611 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 10 TASS—Sergey Filatov, chief of staff of the Russian president's administration, did not rule out the possibility that President Boris Yeltsin may run for reelection in 1996.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS, Filatov said that the administration acts on that assumption and is busy trying to figure out ways to forge large political unions "which could unite the voters around their ideas."

Dozens and hundreds of small parties which have from 100 to 1,000 members disperse the political spectrum and may lead to a situation where the deputy corps will be formed by local administrations, he said.

Filatov particularly pointed out that the law on elections to the State Duma recently passed by the lower house of parliament provides for such a possibility. Under the law, half of the seats will be reserved for candidates running on party tickets.

"I have serious grounds to believe that the Federation Council will not approve this law," Filatov said.

In his view, "the law on elections should stimulate the establishment of large parties. It is in the interests of society to help them organisationally, structurally and, perhaps, financially."

Filatov said his position is shared by dozens of regional leaders.

Decision 'Practically Settled'

LD1104193695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1713 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature No 68 (812) compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin arrived in Nalchik, the capital of Kabardino-Balkaria, on Tuesday.

Asked about his vacation in Sochi, he told journalists that he felt "emotionally recovered". He noted, however, that he worked on documents every day and held telephone talks with Prime Minister Chernomyrdin, Mayor of Moscow Luzhkov and defense and foreign ministers Grachev and Kozyrev.

He said that with Chernomyrdin he discussed problems of economic development in the regions, and the importance of adopting a program for the development of depressed regions.

Speaking about his discussions with Luzhkov, he said that most of them dealt with the celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of Victory in World War II. Yeltsin said that although Luzhkov insisted on coming to Sochi, he found telephone talks sufficient. "We easily find a common language by telephone. We used to talk for 30 or 40 minutes," he said.

He announced that he held telephone talks with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. "Kohl has certain issues," said Yeltsin commenting on his possible arrival in Moscow. "And I understand him," he added.

"It is clear that he may not be comfortable during the victory parade. We discussed the program for his stay in Russia. He will lay wreathes at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Moscow and go to Lyublino and lay wreathes at the graves of German soldiers. He will also take part in the reception on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Victory in World War II.

Yeltsin told Interfax that if U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher arrives in Moscow in the middle of April to discuss preparations for the Russian-American summit, he will meet with Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev.

President Yeltsin has not yet decided whether to run for the presidency.

Meanwhile, an informed source close to the Russian president, preferring anonymity, said that the question of Yeltsin's participation in the forthcoming presidential elections had been practically settled, so "it only remains for his team to decide when to announce this decision and in what form."

He told Interfax on Tuesday that the decision "has not come as a surprise." "Russia has enough social forces the president can count on if they unite," he said.

"To emerge victorious from the 1996 elections, Yeltsin will not have to form any special presidential party, as long as his team manages to solve the Chechen problem, avoid new conflicts in the potentially-dangerous regions of the CIS, conclude a wide-reaching treaty with Ukraine, overcome inflation, push the country further along the road of economic and social reforms," he said.

He said neither Yeltsin nor his team will exert efforts to prolong the president's stay in office, except during presidential elections. "Firstly, Yeltsin is a democrat and secondly, he is an astute politician, who understands the difference between Russia and the countries where such moves may bring about expected results."

As the election campaign has practically started in Russia, Yeltsin will not be slow in announcing his decision, said the source. In his opinion, Yeltsin may announce his decision while answering questions posed by the Russian media, during his leave on the Black Sea coast.

"Yeltsin is likely to do so before the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of victory over fascism, so that he will meet statesmen during the Moscow celebrations as the most probable candidate to the presidential post until the end of the century," he said.

To back up his words, the source referred to similar statements made lately by chief of the presidential staff Sergey Filatov and the president's aide Aleksandr Livshits.

From the Nalchik airport Yeltsin and the officials accompanying him headed for an exhibition of Kabardino-Balkaria economic achievement.

A four-year-old thorough-bred stallion, bred locally, was given to President Yeltsin as a gift on Tuesday, during his visit to the racetrack of Kabardino-Balkaria's capital Nalchik.

Special horse races are part of an old local tradition. Kabardino-Balkaria's government instituted a prize of ten million rubles in honor of Boris Yeltsin.

Yeltsin presented a cheque for ten million rubles to the winner himself.

The same day Boris Yeltsin and his wife Naina visited Nalchik's center for children's creativity.

Yeltsin signed the charter of the Children of Kabardino-Balkaria Foundation, to which he had transferred 5 billion rubles from the Russian president's reserve fund earlier.

After their visit to the children's creativity center the president and those who accompanied him returned to his residence situated at the local resort belonging to Russia's Interior Ministry.

On Wednesday Boris Yeltsin is expected to visit areas lying at the foot of the Mountain Elbrus.

Filatov: Yeltsin Has 'Greater Chance' of Winning

LD1204195895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kremlin Chief of Staff Sergey Filatov says Boris Yeltsin's chances of winning the next presidential poll are greater than those of other candidates given the public mood for stability, continuity and further reforms.

In an interview with Interfax, he said these trends presupposed Yeltsin's involvement in new elections, something that his administration was working on now.

However, Filatov said that a final decision whether or not to run for a second term of office rested with Yeltsin himself. IF note: The president himself speaking in Nalchik (capital of Kabardino-Balkaria) on Tuesday said he was still undecided.

In the meantime, Head of the Strategic Analysis and Prognostication Center Dmitriy Olshanskiy told a news conference in Moscow that Yeltsin's rating may drop to a second place after Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin by May or July and probably a third place later this year.

At the same time, Mayor of Moscow Yuriy Luzhkov may become a runner up in public polls by the end of 1995.

Analysts say Grigoriy Yavlinskiy of the Yabloko faction will be among top five while Gennadiy Zyuganov of the Communist Party and Vladimir Zhirinovskiy of the LDP among top ten.

On other politicians' ratings, Olshanskiy said that Yuriy Skokov, Sergey Glaziyev, Petr Romanov and Dmitriy Rogozin were all expected to do well in public polls, but not Konstantin Zatulin or Mikhail Zadornov whose ratings will plummet by the end of 1995. The overall rating of members of Russia's Choice faction will fall down as well as those of runners up on party lists of PRES [Party of Russian Unity and Accord] and Yabloko groups winning seats in the 1993 election. The center and left-of-center groups have largely increased their influence, Olshanskiy said.

Yeltsin Proposes Changes to Draft Law on Regional Power

LD0704193695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1808 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—A conclusion about the draft federal law "On General Principles of Organization of State Power Bodies in Constituent Members of the Russian Federation" was sent by Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin today, reports the presidential press service.

According to the state head, the draft law "contains a number of serious drawbacks, many of its provisions run counter to the Russian Constitution and violate fundamentals of the Russian constitutional system on division of power and independence of state power bodies."

In the opinion of Yeltsin, the draft law needs improvement. The president put forward his proposals and amendments to the bill text.

Yeltsin Submits Draft Law on Housing for Servicemen

LD0704194195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1809 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 7 TASS—A draft federal law "On Changes and Amendments to Russian Legislative Acts Related to the Fulfillment of Social-Economic Programs of Housing Construction for Russian Servicemen" was submitted today by Russian President Boris Yeltsin submitted to the Duma. [sentence as received]

A letter sent to Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin says that the "aforesaid law aims at efficient use of gratuitous foreign financial assistance and participation of Russian enterprises and organizations in solution of social, economic and housing problems of servicemen."

The draft provides for tax benefits for Russian enterprises and organizations that participate in construction of housing for Russian servicemen.

Yeltsin To Reveal Next Year's Budget Plans 'By Summer'

LD0804135395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1230 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 8 (Interfax)—By summer Russian President Boris Yeltsin will be expected to share his view of next year's budget with the federal government, Yeltsin's economic aide Aleksandr Livshits said in a guest address to the Council of the Russia's Choice movement, Saturday in Moscow.

Yeltsin addressed the Federal Assembly last February when the State Duma was about to complete discussion of this year's budget and found it difficult to take into account his suggestions.

Yeltsin Orders Measures To Secure Banking Information

MM1204134095 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 95 First Edition p 5

[Russian Federation Presidential Edict No. 334 "On Measures To Ensure Legality in the Development, Production, Sale, and Operation of Encoding Equipment as Well as in the Provision of Information-Encoding Services," dated Moscow, The Kremlin, 3 April 1995 and signed by Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin: "Certificate for Information"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In order to ensure unfailing implementation of the Russian Federation Law "On Federal Organs of Government Communications and Information," the intensification of the fight against organized crime, and the protection of the information and telecommunications systems of the organs of state power, Russian credit and financial structures, and enterprises and organizations, I decree that:

1. The Program for the Creation and Development of a Special-Purpose Information and Telecommunications System for the Organs of State Power is given the status of a presidential program. The Russian Federation Presidential Staff Center for Presidential Programs together with the Russian Federation Presidency's Federal Agency for Government Communications and Information [FAPSI] are to ensure that it is completed and implemented.

2. The use of encoding equipment in information and telecommunications systems by state organs and enterprises, including cryptographic equipment to ensure the authenticity (electronic signature) of information, and of secure technical equipment for the storage, processing, and transmission of information which does not possess a FAPSI certificate, as well as the placing of state orders at enterprises and organizations using the aforementioned technical and encoding equipment not possessing a FAPSI certificate, are prohibited.

3. The Central Bank of the Russian Federation and the FAPSI are instructed to take the necessary measures with regard to commercial banks in the Russian Federation which are evading the mandatory use of FAPSI-certificated secure technical equipment for the storage, processing, and transmission of information when exchanging information with branches of the Central Bank of the Russian Federation.

4. In the interests of the Russian Federation's information security and the stepping up of the fight against organized crime, the activities of corporate bodies and individuals in connection with the development, production, sale, and operation of encoding equipment and secure technical equipment for the storage, processing, and transmission of information, and the provision of information-encoding services without licenses issued by the Russian Federation and the FAPSI are prohibited under the Russian Federation Law "On the Federal Organs of Government Communications and Information."

5. The Russian Federation State Customs Committee is to take measures to stop the import of foreign-manufactured encoding equipment onto Russian Federation territory without a license from the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, issued by agreement with the FAPSI.

6. The Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Russian Federation Ministry of Internal Affairs together with the FAPSI, the Russian Federation State Taxation Service, and the Russian Federation

Department of the Tax Police are to expose corporate bodies and individuals violating the conditions of this edict.

7. The Russian Federation General Prosecutor's Office is instructed to step up its monitoring of the observance of the Russian Federation Law "On the Federal Organs of Government Communications and Information" with regard to the development, production, sale, and operation of encoding equipment as well as to the provision of information-encoding services in the Russian Federation which are subject to FAPSI licensing and certification.

8. A Federal Center for the Protection of Economic Information is to be set up under the FAPSI (from the existing staff of that agency) and given the task of developing and selling all-embracing programs for ensuring security of economic information for Russian credit and finance and other economically significant structures in the country.

The General Director of the FAPSI is to confirm a statute for the aforementioned center within two months.

9. This edict comes into force from the day of its publication.

[signed] Russian Federation President B. Yeltsin

[dated] Moscow, The Kremlin, 3 April 1995

No. 334

Yeltsin Supports Creation of Russian Public Television

LD1204192095 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] Several agencies have reported today that Russian President Boris Yeltsin has returned to Sochi after a short stay in Kabardino-Balkaria. In reply to a question from our correspondent yesterday on the creation of Russian Public Television, which is currently being heartily discussed, the president described it as correct and stressed that this is a new undertaking, which due to its novelty probably annoys some people. The president spoke unequivocally in favor of the new TV, and such a stance will clarify the issue of the Public Russian TV.

Yeltsin Urges Measures To Ease Tensions in Tajikistan

LD1304140495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1344 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin suggested on Thursday to take urgent measures to ease tensions at the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border, "boosting the use of funds and forces (already) allocated to guard the border and involving collective peace-keeping forces as necessary", the presidential press service said in a statement released today.

The statement covered a Sochi meeting between the Russian president and Russian Federal Border Service Director Andrey Nikolayev. Nikolayev arrived on Thursday to the south Russian resort where Yeltsin was on leave.

"Chairman of the Council of heads of state of the CIS (the Commonwealth of Independent States), Russian President Boris Yeltsin heard today a report by chairman of the Council of the Border Troops' Commanders of the Commonwealth, Director of the Russian Federal Border Service Andrey Nikolayev on the situation at the Tajik-Afghan border," the statement said.

A number of clashes between Tajik mojaheeds and local border troops have been reported in recent days. The border is being guarded largely by Russian border troops and to lesser extent by Kazakh and Tajik frontier guards, according to a CIS treaty on collective security.

The Russian president also said it would be reasonable to render necessary technical and military assistance to Tajikistan, the press service said. He also urged a joint session of the CIS foreign ministers with participation of defence ministers and commanders of border troops of the CIS to draw up additional collective measures which would comply with earlier taken decisions.

Yeltsin, as chairman of the CIS heads of state, views it necessary to foster activities aimed at ensuring stability at the border. This involves, in particular, better coordination of the CIS efforts with those of international organizations, the statement said.

Battle of Center, 'Regional Elites' Viewed

MM0704124595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 6 Apr 95 First Edition pp 1-2

[Article by Vladimir Kuznechevskiy: "Who Dislikes a United Russia?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] For the fourth months now events have been occurring on the Russian political scene about which very little is spoken or written but whose development could ultimately change the entire political picture of the new Russia through the end of the current century and beyond. And whoever takes up the post of president in 1996—Boris Yeltsin or another politician—he will be obliged to operate in accordance with the rules of conduct which are now, literally before our very eyes, being formed in the key of mutual relations between the center and the regions and against whose background the Chechen events are now more than an episode. A tragic and bloody episode but nonetheless from the political viewpoint only an episode.

The main contradiction which should determine the entire course of development of political processes in the country in 1995 and after that will evidently be not the elections to the Federal Assembly but the struggle between the ruling echelons of the regional elites and the Russian Federation Government and president on the line of the so-called delimitation of powers.

It has become known that in government and presidential structures and in the same key the idea is being nurtured of replacing the national-territorial principle of Russia's federal structure with an administrative-economic principle To all appearances this measure is enforced. Analysis of the mutual relations taking shape between the center and the regions shows that among regional power elites the desire has developed to transform federal relations in the state as rapidly as possible into confederative relations.

The forecast and analysis report prepared on instructions from the federal organs by the independent center for strategic analysis and forecasting (the director is Professor Dmitriy Olshanskiy) entitled "Start to the new political year and the 'change of milestones' in the economy" asserts that in recent months some Russian republics and kray and oblast power elites have embarked on the path of building their own statehood of the "presidential" type (Tatarstan and Bashkortostan are named specifically).

Kazan, for instance, the report's authors write, is on many issues either ostentatiously duplicating Moscow (for instance by creating its own state investment corporation) or even anticipating it, by introducing, for instance, its own "Tatarstan" minimum wage of 100,000 rubles, three times the general Russian level.

Chuvashia President Nikolay Fedorov has embarked on direct confrontation with Moscow, disavowing through his directives the operation of the Russian Federation president's edicts on the territory of his republican in the case of the appointment of B. Antonov as Chuvash minister of internal affairs and the banning of the dispatch of draftees from Chuvashia to Chechnya. The Khakasia Supreme Council is hurriedly trying to adopt its own constitution in order to restrict the operation of the Russian Fundamental Law on its own territory.

To all appearances what is generating anxiety in this process is not only the actual "aping" of Moscow but also the fact that in practice it is a case of a unified front of demands both from the Russian republics and from the so-called "Russian" krays and oblasts. Formerly the interests of these two types of components of the Federation most often did not coincide. Moreover, Moscow seems to have been convinced that any concession under pressure from the regional elites contains the danger that the latter will never stop at what they have achieved and the powers they have taken in the struggle with the center will serve not to establish a stable model of mutual relations between the center and the region but as a rule will serve as a basis for a new offensive on the center's rights.

In other words, the question of the real formation of confederative relations in the state has long ceased to be a topic merely of academic debate.

There is no denying that if the components of the Federation achieve from Moscow permission (or take that right for themselves on the spur of the moment counter to the will of the center) for, let us say, independent financing of their regions in the investment sphere through direct relations with foreign countries, bypassing Moscow, then we will not be able to speak of any technical progress for Russia as a whole.

Practice shows that under present conditions there are two methods of gathering the lands under the wing of a single state model. Both methods have been tested in many countries and are used successfully. One, the extreme method, is with the aid of military force. The other, civilized and democratic method is with the aid of the population's expression of its will and the transformation of the model of statehood.

To judge by deeds, in an extreme situation Boris Yeltsin does not shun the first method (the Chechen campaign demonstrated that). But it is not the main and basic one for the president. It is indeed extreme.

The second is far more effective (and attractive). And to all appearances he is counting mainly on it.

The authors of the above-mentioned analysis believe that a specific step on the path of the restriction of the power of the "regional barons" but not from above but from below from the local organs of management was the all-Russian conference on questions of local self-management held by the President and the government. Having been created the organs of local self management are intended to "swallow" both the power and perhaps the material (including financial) resources of the regional elites. Proceeding from the premise that centrifugal tendencies come not from the people but from the regional elites, the report's authors write, the president's staff decided to share power with the population, placing the regional elites between a kind of "rock" and a "hard place."

Olshanskiy's collective believes that the next step seems to be being prepared against the regional elites: An attempt is being made to review the country's territorial-administrative division. A natural enough move albeit a belated one: In principle it is impossible to build a new statehood (that is to implement a new state model) on the old administrative-territorial basis.

This new state model, the report's authors conclude, presupposes the creation of eight interregional economic associations as potential "components of the Federation." When implemented this model essentially abolishes the regional power structures as an intermediary link unnecessary in the administration of the country and society.

In general this is not a new idea. It is presaged by the times of the era of the creation of the national economy soviets which were also created on the basis of the principle of the commonality of economic conditions of management. It is something else that is new here. Sergey Shakhray calls this phenomenon "the second stage of the all-Russian state reform," explaining here that it is a case of replacing the arbitrarily carved out administrative-territorial structure, which instantly became a Russian national-state structure, with a better state-territorial structure.

On this plane politicians brought into action at the level of general political and not state activity, of party leaders, for instance, are more specific. Thus Svyatoslav Fedorov, chairman of the party of working people's self management, back in the summer of 1994 in his party's program enshrined the clause that "the main problem of Russia's federative structure is the contradiction between the two models of federalism—the national and the territorial. Acknowledging the country's federative structure existing under the present constitution and based on a mixed national-territorial model and the equality of the components of the Federation, it must be admitted that in the long term (as an aim) we need the gradual reform of the Russian Federation and its bringing into line with a single model based on the principle of economic expediency."

Of course the question arises: If the president and government decide to go through with this plan they have conceived will this not cause serious complications in mutual relations between the center and the regions? After all, the latter could also decide to go all the way in their aspirations. In that case will all this not lead rather to the country's collapse than to the process of the gathering of the lands? Of course that danger exists.

But today all sides involved have to proceed from reality, that is from the fact that the contradiction on this plane already exists and it is no longer possible to avoid a solution to the question and it is merely a question of choice and that does not leave Moscow with great opportunities. The center can either see through what it has begun or it can retreat, let everything go its own way, and in that case wait for a new crisis like the Chechen one.

The spring of 1995 has little that is reminiscent of the period of the "parade of sovereignties," that is the era of the emergence of new regional power elites on the scene. At the time there was a serious struggle between the national and in general regional elites and the union center and CPSU Central Committee apparatus. But at that time behind every autonomous body there stood the authority of the Russian leadership and on their side was the USSR's most popular political figure—Boris Yeltsin. The situation now is radically different.

First, in their confederalist aspirations the "regional barons" are now having to struggle against a single and powerful head of state advocating the conservation and consolidation of the integrity of the Russian state. In this struggle the population of any Russian region which has suffered from the state's impotence will of course support the Russian Federation president rather than the regional leaders.

Second, in resolving this contradiction the regional leaders will come up against the team headed by the head of state and the head of government. Today only a blind man can fail to see that however much some mass media may try to speculate on the alleged differences between the president and the prime minister in an effort to turn the difficult moment natural in any matter into political differences, practice shows that these have not occurred and do not occur.

All these factors taken together leave the separatists little chance of success.

Military, Nuclear & Space Issues

Grachev Addresses Missile Troops on Chechnya, Funding

MM1204190195 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Aleksandr Pelts: "The Problems of Missile Forces Are the Problems of Russia's Security. Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Defense Minister, Tours Strategic Missile Forces Units and Subunits"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Having arrived in Irkutsk 11 April, Russian Federation Defense Minister Army Gen. Pavel Grachev visited a Strategic Missile Forces separate unit. He familiarized himself with missilemen's everyday life and service and inspected mobile missile systems which are on alert status. As part of this he observed a missile division taking up launch positions.

During a meeting with the missile regiment's personnel the defense minister noted that the Armed Forces are now encountering serious problems, primarily over questions of financing and manpower acquisition. These problems have not bypassed the Strategic Missile Forces. The main burden of them, the defense minister stressed, is shouldered by the officer corps. But even in this situation the missilemen, according to Army Gen. Grachev, have demonstrated good skill. Summarizing the results of demonstration practice drills, the defense minister thanked the personnel and awarded valuable prizes to officers.

In conversation with the unit's servicemen Army Gen. Grachev also touched on events in Chechnya. He stressed that combat operations on Chechen Republic territory have been a serious test for the entire Armed Forces. Ultimately the Army confirmed its high morale and fighting efficiency there. The most important and the most active operations in Chechnya have now been completed. The troops have accomplished their set missions. In the future it is planned to involve only a limited number of personnel in military operations. Here the defense minister specially noted that 1995 draftees will not be sent to the combat operations zone.

Unfortunately, Army Gen. Grachev believes, many mass media have taken a biased and one-sided attitude toward the role of the troops and toward assessing their actions. This is primarily because certain journalists failed to understand the implications of the events. The defense minister again recalled that all possible attempts were made to settle the Chechen crisis by political means long before combat operations began.

Speaking about the need to continue military reform, Pavel Grachev noted that the Chechen events have raised many questions regarding both operational tactics and the quality of troops' weapons. "We have held a number of meetings with statesmen and realize that changes are necessary in current Armed Forces regulations, manuals, and equipment," he stressed.

The defense minister linked changes for the better in the Army with the state's economic condition. He also noted that the success of Armed Forces reform largely depends on statesmen's understanding this problem. Unfortunately the actions of some of them leave virtually no hope that the Army will be provided with everything it needs. The defense minister again recalled: Currently the Armed Forces are kept going mainly "by officers' resilience." Talking about the problem of social protection for the officer corps, Pavel Grachev noted the enormous role of local administrations, which in very difficult conditions are still finding it possible to give assistance to the units and subunits located on their territory.

Summarizing the results of his working day in the Strategic Missile Forces unit, Army Gen. Pavel Grachev stressed, in particular, that the Strategic Missile Forces remain a most important means of stabilizing the world political situation. Incidentally, the new "Topol-M" strategic systems are currently being brought into service. All the conditions have been created to ensure that training launches are conducted as early as this May. An expert pool of specialists is also ready for action and will conduct these launches at the Kapustin Yar test range.

On 12 April the Russian defense minister flew to the city of Engels in the Volga Military District, where he will continue his work in Strategic Missile Forces units.

Kolesnikov on Russian Policy in Chechnya

LD0704161195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1259 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 7 (Interfax)—Chief of the General Staff of Russia's armed forces Mikhail Kolesnikov believes that negotiations with the authoritative representatives of the Chechen people locally have become central to the final phase of the operation to restore constitutional order to the Chechen republic. Such negotiations began last month. Kolesnikov said in an interview that precisely that trend ruled out the risk of a an all-out prolonged guerrilla war in Chechnya, contrary to what Dzhokhar Dudayev's associates were saying. "True, there will remain certain gangs and terrorist groups, but they will fail to determine the future climate in Chechnya", he said.

He emphasized the idea that a flexible, individual approach proved effective in negotiations between federal troops and the leaders and authorities of communities situated in areas still controlled by the militants. "There have been as many individual decisions as there are villages", Kolesnikov said.

He said that in dozens of instances federal troop commanders on the one hand, and local authorities on the other, had managed to come to terms with each other. As a matter of fact there have been peace treaties concluded at the local level and as a rule mutual guarantees have been observed.

Kolesnikov dismissed as sheer nonsense rumors in some sections of the media that he had held secret talks with some senior emissary of Dzhokhar Dudayev. "We prefer to do business with those who have real power", the general said.

He believes that as he addressed the State Duma (Russian parliament's lower house) Friday behind closed doors, about 80% of its members supported the law adopted by the Duma after three readings to prolong the term of army service from 18 to 24 months. "The lawmakers' constructive position on that strategic problem presents a real chance to increase the situation in the Russian armed forces", Kolesnikov said.

Defense Ministry Official Says Army Staffing Low

LD0704144195 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 7 Apr 95

[Video report by R. Babayan; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] A news conference was held by Yevgeniy Vysotskiy, head of the personnel directorate of the Russian Defense Ministry, in Moscow today.

[Babayan] The general told the gathering some interesting facts about the Russian Army situation. Staffing in the sub-units of our armed forces was one of the issues. There is one general for every thousand soldiers in the Russian Army, paid between 800,000 and 1 million rubles. In addition, the shortfall in the officer corps is over 12 percent and is mainly at the level of platoon and component commanders. There are several reasons for this, but two in particular: the serious drop in the prestige attached to serving in the army and the enormous numbers transferred to the reserves. People are laid off due to age or health, but the majority—42 percent—leave of their own accord because of poor pay and the tough living conditions they have to put up with in service. For this reason, Yevgeniy Vysotskiy said, it has been necessary to call up reserve officers, but this does not solve the problem. Large-scale support from the state is needed. Asked by a Vesti journalist if there was sense in carrying out a plan to reduce Russia's armed forces when they are suffering an acute staff shortage, General Vysotskiy said;

[Vysotskiy] We are in the process of maximizing the army's potential. The army is being reformed, and one aspects of army reform is the setting up of the group [not further identified]. Because new groups are being formed, certain units, and combined units—which used to be part of the squadrons—are being cut back.

Defense Industry Expects Government To Pay Debts

MK1104104395 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Demyan Belyakov in the "In Brief" column: "CIS Defense Industrialists Have Nothing To Quarrel Over"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The State Defense Industry Committee held a press conference on the results of the Abu-Dhabi Arms Show and the Melbourne Air Show. The results themselves, however, were mentioned only briefly, the motivation being that the results of such events become apparent later, and much work still remains to be done. On the other hand, the situation in the military industrial-complex was given considerable attention. Viktor Glukhikh, head of the State Committee, said that the government had pledged to pay defense industry enterprises all its debts from state orders in the period from April through July, and had issued a special decree allowing debts on wages to be paid from cash flow. When asked by the NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA correspondent how keen competition between the CIS countries had been at the shows, Viktor Glukhikh answered: "We have nothing to quarrel over. We need to expand our activities!"

Source Denies Reports of Accident at Kursk Nuclear Station

LD1304051595 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0300 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports about an incident at the Kursk atomic power station published by some media sources in Ukraine and the United States on Wednesday are not true, a duty officer at the Russian Ministry for Emergencies told INTERFAX today. The radiation background is normal both at the power station itself and in the surrounding areas.

Defense Ministry Says Space Forces To Control All Launches

LD1204154295 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A reliable source in the Ministry of Defense has informed us that a decision has been adopted to put all space launches, including those based on intercontinental ballistic missiles, under the direction of Russia's Military Space Forces [MSF]. Let us remind you that the recent unsuccessful launch of the space vehicle Start was carried out by the Strategic Rocket Forces from their own test range.

Federal Assembly

Council Rejects Armed Forces Staffing Law

MM1204165795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Petr Karapetyan: "What Senators Will Decide. Federation Council Has Rejected One of Laws Connected With Troops Staffing. What Will Be the Fate of the Other, More Important, One?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 11 April at a closed session the Federation Council rejected the law "on urgent measures to staff the Russian Federation Armed Forces and Russian Federation Border Troops on the basis of the draft" as a whole. The law, let us remind you, was adopted by the State Duma 24 March. it provides for draftees to be sent only to the armed forces and border troops.

First, the figures. As of today the Armed Forces have 75 percent of its full complement of soldiers, sergeants, and military construction workers, the internal troops have 72.9 percent, and the border troops 84.3 percent, the railroad troops 69.3 percent, and the troops of other ministries and departments 49.6 percent. The total shortfall in this category of servicemen is 444,000 and of these there is a shortfall of 279,000 in the armed forces alone. The deputies believe that the low staffing level is the direct result of the "excessively broad spectrum of grounds for citizens' exemption from military service and the granting of deferments from the draft contained in the Russian Federation law 'on military service obligation and military service.'" In their view there are no special grounds for supposing that the situation will improve in 1995. The troops' nee for youthful reinforcements will be satisfied by only 38 percent and the total staffing by the end of the year will not exceed 60 percent of the authorized strength. In the armed forces the shortfall is over 77 percent [as published], in the internal troops it is over 100,000, and in the border and railroad troops it is about 50,000. With this level of staffing, the deputies believe, it is hard to count on the units and formations being able to fulfill the tasks set them even at the "minimum necessary volume." And that applies to trouble spots too.

That is the general situation.

The law "on urgent measures to staff the Russian Federation Armed Forces and Russian Federation Border Troops on the basis of the draft": does not, in the senators' opinion, alter it radically and moreover it contradicts the Constitution and a whole series of federal laws and does not "fit" into the federal budget. Having rejected the law the Federation Council has deemed it expedient to recommend to the State Duma and the interested ministries and departments (15 in all) that they elaborate changes and additions to the laws connected with nationwide safety and the country's defense. But, as we know, the Duma has already taken new steps in this direction. Next in line at the Federation Council is the law "on the introduction of changes and additions to articles 17, 19, 21, 37, and 50 in the Russian Federation law 'on military service obligation and military service.'" It has been prepared and submitted to the State Duma by the government. The federal Assembly's lower chamber has examined and adopted it in three readings 7 April.

Abdulatipov Concerned About 'Mafia Structures' Buying Elections

LD1204192795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (INTERFAX)—Russia may get after the coming parliamentary elections a parliament "reflecting the interests of mafia structures," Deputy Chairman of the Federation Council Ramazan Abdulatipov told the roundtable meeting on fight with crime in Moscow today.

He said he believed that several people connected with the criminal world had already been elected to the parliament "due to mafia's money." Abdulatipov said the public electoral funds would turn out to be the most beneficial place for investing during the parliamentary and presidential elections, respectively in 1995 and 1996.

President of the Club of KGB Veterans, Lieutenant-Colonel Valeriy Velichko told the meeting that the developing merger between the power and criminal structures was a serious danger for the state. He said that about 3 million crimes, including about 40,000 premeditated murders, had been registered in the country in 1994.

Velichko said the number of crimes against businessmen and property was growing in Russia. He said that criminal assaults on Western businessmen had risen in 1994 by about 30% against 1993.

Velichko said one of the main reasons for the crime growing were corrupted government officials. He said that, according to some evaluations, criminal revenues in 1994 were 2 trillion rubles of which 30-50% were spent on bribing officials. He said officials were accomplices to every seventh-eighth organized criminal grouping.

Participants in the roundtable said they would work out recommendations for drafting federal laws on strengthening fight with organized crime.

Federation Council Ratifies CIS, International Accords

LD1204205795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1726 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The Federation Council, Russia's upper house of parliament, on Wednesday approved a law on ratification of the agreement on cooperation in labour migration and social security of working migrants.

The agreement was signed by the prime ministers of CIS member-countries a year ago.

According to the Federation Council's Committees for CIS Affairs and for Social Policy, this document fully meets Russia's interests without requiring additional budget allocations.

The agreement sets up "a requisite legal and treaty framework for to regulate labour migration, helps ease the current tension on the labour market and seals migrants' right for social security in the country of residence". Lawmakers also emphasised that the document was designed to enhance integration within the Commonwealth of Independent States and, in particular, to speed creation of a common labour market.

The parliament's upper house also ratified a package of other international accords, including conventions and agreements to avoid dual taxation between Russia and Bulgaria, Vietnam, Ireland, South Korea, Romania, Sweden and Uzbekistan. Also ratified were consular conventions between the Russian Federation and Armenia, Georgia, Lithuania, Estonia and Ukraine.

Federation Council Urges Settlement of Karabakh Issue

LD1204215195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2035 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The Federation Council, upper house of Russia's parliament, on Wednesday released a statement to mark one year since fire ceased in Nagorno-Karabakh. In the statement, Russian lawmakers urged the conflicting sides to do their utmost to release prisoners and hostages, and to speed up a political solution of the conflict.

The statement was timed to coincide with the 1st anniversary since the signing of the Bishkek Protocol, which initiated a true armistice and a stable negotiating process between the conflicting sides.

Applauding the continuing ceasefire, lawmakers however expressed regret over differences still remaining unsettled by Armenia and Azerbaijan. Although blood is not being spilt now in the conflict zone, many people still remain prisoners or hostages, thousands of refugees do not have an opportunity of returning home, the document noted. The Federation Council urged the heads of state and parliament of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as power bodies of Nagorno-Karabakh to "show good will and make a humane gesture in solving these thorny issues".

Russian lawmakers pin special hopes upon the interparliamentary assembly of CIS countries, which contributed greatly to the ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh. The Federation Council pledged to render further assistance in a peace settlement of the conflict.

Federation Council Approves Law on State Commodity Liabilities

LD1204213795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 12 (Interfax)—The Federal Council has approved the State Duma's law of March 24 obliging the government to settle its debt to Russian citizens on state commodity liabilities in three years' time.

The chairman of the Federation Council's Committee for the Affairs of the North and Small Ethnic Groups Valentin Tsvetkov has told the upper house that the Finance Ministry estimates the law would require 11 trillion rubles to implement.

A sum of 3.2 trillion rubles was earmarked in the 1995 budget to pay part of state commodity liabilities.

The state commodity obligations include earmarked interest-free bonds of 1990, automobile vouchers issued in 1991-1994, Urozhay-90 (Harvesting-90) vouchers for the purchase of automobiles and other commodities on preferential terms, automobile purchase deposits in the Savings Bank and others.

The law declares all such state obligations part of the internal debt.

Federation Council Considers Legal Appeal on Chechnya

LD1304110295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1031 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—The Federation Council of the Russian parliament voted overwhelmingly Thursday to request the Constitutional Court to rule whether the decision of President Boris Yeltsin to send troops to Chechnya was constitutional.

The upper house also wants a constitutional ruling on all other decisions of the president, the government and the defence minister regarding the use of force in the rebel republic.

Deputy chairman of the Committee for Constitutional Legislature of the Federation Council, Yelena Mizulina, in a report to the Federation Council reminded of the fact that for the first time, the question of making an appeal to the Constitutional Court was raised in the Federation Council on February 17. However, the solution of the problem was deliberately postponed. Mizulina thought Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko was to blame for this political maneuvering, which, as she put it, "posed a threat to Russia's safety."

During the debates other critical remarks against Shumeyko were made. Lawmakers reproached him for having failed to bring to the notice of the chamber "a secret law" issued by the president, although the question of introducing a state of emergency or martial law was precisely within the constitutional powers of the Federation Council.

In response to the criticism voiced against him, Shumeyko pointed out that the law on state secrecy prevented him from familiarizing lawmakers with the decree, which was delivered to the chamber from the Security Council in two copies addressed to Shumeyko as a member of the Security Council and the chairman of the Committee of the Federation Council for Security and Defence. He also reminded of the fact that the rules of procedure of the Federation Council do not envisage that the chairman is entitled to provide the chamber with information.

At first, 89 out of 90 lawmakers, with the necessary minimum number of 90 votes, came out in favour of making a court appeal. However, later it was decided that a court resolution on the matter was in the interests of all sides concerned as a legitimate way out of the quandary. It was also pointed out that by appealing to court the chamber "would help the Russian president remain the guarantor of the constitution". A decision to apply to court was passed during the second vote by 97 lawmakers with one against and two abstentions.

It is common knowledge that from the very first days of the military operation in Chechnya the upper chamber of the Russian parliament unequivocally came out against the use of force. On December 17, the Federation Council suggested that President Boris Yeltsin immediately take measures to stop combat operations by all sides involved and continue the negotiating process at a higher level of government delegations, proceeding from the principles of preserving the integrity of the Russian Federation and giving an opportunity to the Chechen people to freely express their will. The lawmakers also suggested that the Russian president address them with his plans of reaching the settlement of the Chechen crisis. Since none of the suggested proposals were complied with, two months later many lawmakers of the Federation Council suggested applying to the Constitutional Court, asking it to rule whether the president's laws and resolutions of the government authorizing the use of the army were constitutional.

Soskovets Addresses Duma Committee on Industrial Policy

LD1004231895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1350 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 10 Apr—Currently one of the main tasks is to establish close interrelations between the legislative and executive bodies of power for carrying out concerted work on reforming industry, Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets believes. He stated this today when addressing a sitting of the Russian Federation [RF] State Duma Committee for Industry, Construction, Transportation, and Power Industry.

At the sitting of the committee he presented deputies with draft Guidelines for RF industrial policy for 1995-1997, elaborated by the RF State Committee for Industrial Policy. Oleg Soskovets stressed that this document had not yet been examined by the government, and today in fact it was for the first time offered for a wide public discussion. According to the first deputy prime minister, the guidelines for the RF's industrial policy for 1995-1997 are not a directive plan; they should determine a strategy for the country's industrial development.

In the opinion of Oleg Soskovets, the main issue to be resolved by the state industrial policy is to determine the conditions and sequence of measures to transform Russian industry into a multi-branch and highly technological complex which ensures country's national security and economic independence, and a high national standard of living as well as Russia's integration into the system of worldwide economic ties.

To do so, a whole complex of interconnected problems should be solved, and first and foremost, financial stability should be reached and pace of inflation should be curbed.

In his opinion, the second condition necessary for the industrial production to begin to grow is a significant increase in highly effective investments, and the government plans to create the most favourable climate for them. Direct stimulation of highly effective private investments is envisaged in order to speed up the process for transforming savings into investments that are first of all channelled into reconstruction of production.

Oleg Soskovets has also stressed that setting up of financial and industrial groups which are the most effective tool for accelerating the investment process, serves the same purpose.

Court Ruling on Duma Quorums May Lead to 'Grand Scandals'

MK1204075395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Parkhomenko in the "Justice" column: "Great Troubles for Ivan Rybkin. The Constitutional Court Questions the Legality of Many Parliament Decisions"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Russian Constitutional Court Chairman Vladimir Tumanov intends to promulgate this afternoon a decision following a query about methods of calculating a quorum of parliament. According to some very reliable sources from the court residence in Ilyinka Street, Constitutional Court members have been swayed by the opinion that all calculations of voting results in the Duma (and therefore in the Federation Council) should be based on the nominal number of parliamentary mandates, not the actual list of deputies in office. "The State Duma consists of 450 deputies," says Article 95 of the Russian Federation Constitution, and this norm was in the end deemed fundamental. Therefore a decision is adopted only if it has polled 226 votes, and not a vote less.

The verdict on the "issue of larger or smaller quorums" is not retroactive, of course. The Constitutional Court resolution does not in any way revoke either the election of Ivan Rybkin (it will be recalled that he was supported by 223 deputies) or the resolution on the March political amnesty (224 votes in favor). Nonetheless, Constitutional Court members could not but realize that they were creating grounds for a series of grand parliamentary scandals. LDPR deputies would obviously be happy to challenge the legitimacy of Rybkin's presence in the post of speaker: Recently Ivan Petrovich has acquired an amazing knack for stopping their hysterical escapades by just a couple of slaps (verbal, of course). Communists and Agrarians, who have received virtually no dividends from propelling "their man" to the presidium, have this year developed a heavy grudge against Rybkin.

And still. "A truly legitimate decision is that which expresses the opinion not simply of a parliamentary majority but also—even if indirectly—of the majority of the electorate," a Constitutional Court member noted in a conversation with SEGODNYA's correspondent, commenting on his position. Another justice offered a basically similar, if somewhat convoluted, argument: "Vacant seats in parliament are not dead deputies' souls but the souls of voters who need representation." [passage omitted]

Duma Condemns Attack on Border Guards Near Tajik-Afghan Border

LD1204171595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 12 (Interfax)—The Russian State Duma in a statement released today condemned "the criminal attacks on border guards" near the Tajik-Afghan borders which resulted in killing and wounding tens of Russian, Kazakh and Tajik servicemen.

The statement was supported by 243 deputies, no one voted against it.

The State Duma said that such treacherous actions seriously violated the cease-fire agreement and undermined Russia's mediatory role in a Tajik settlement. The

State Duma deputies doubted "the sincerity of the offer by the Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan Movement representatives to negotiate in the interests of peace and stability."

The State Duma accused Afghanistan, from whose territory military actions on the border were launched, of "obviously putting up" with militants and demanded that the Tajik central and local authorities take radical efficient measures for isolating the centers of military-terrorist activities on Afghan territory.

The State Duma urged the UN, the world community and parliamentarians of all countries to take an active part in eliminating military tension on the Tajik-Afghan border.

Duma Factions Agree To Coordinate Basic Strategies

LD1204174895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1420 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (INTERFAX)—The New Regional Policies and Stability groups, as well as the Russian Unity and Accord faction, of the State Duma (lower house of Russian parliament) signed a formal agreement on the coordination of basic strategies Wednesday.

The leader of the New Regional Policies group Vladimir Medvedev told journalists that the Russia group could be expected to join the agreement. The four Duma groupings bring together a total of 130 lawmakers.

According to Medvedev, the New Regional Policies group rejected the "purely populist" idea of a vote of no confidence in the federal government. Together with other legislators, it signed an open letter to President Yeltsin. The letter suggests that Yeltsin "revamps his strategy for the second stage of the privatization drive with a view to raise the effectiveness of the privatization process."

The New Regional Policies group feels that parliamentary elections must be held exclusively under a majority system. Yeltsin's call for "a one to two ratio between proportional and majority representation in parliament may be accepted exclusively as a compromise on the road for the ultimate triumph of a majority system and as an exception from the rule." The endorsement of Yeltsin's suggestion must be accompanied by moves to "raise, from 5% to 8% of the overall vote, the barrier that must be scaled by candidates running on party tickets in parliamentary elections," Medvedev said.

Duma Votes To Increase Pensions 27 Percent

LD1204185795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (INTERFAX)—The Russian State Duma (lower house) on Wednesday passed a resolution providing for a 27% rise in pensions from May 1. The current minimal pension of Rbl [ruble] 34,440 a month will increase to Rbl 43,739.

The measure will entail an extra spending of Rbl 1.215 billion, according to government estimates.

At the same time, the Duma rejected a cabinet proposal for insurance fees to the pension fund to be raised from 28% to 29%.

The house also approved in the first reading a bill providing for a 57% rise in minimal pensions from July 1.

Constitutional Court Rules on Membership of State Duma

LD1204203195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1024 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Igor Belskiy]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 12 Apr—The concept "total number" of State Duma deputies should be understood to mean the numerical membership of the lower chamber of parliament as specified in the Constitution—namely, 450 individuals. This ruling was made public today by the Russian Federation Constitutional Court. At the same time, it was noted today, the announced decision of the Constitutional Court is not retroactive. The court's ruling emphasizes that previous decisions of the lower chamber of the Federal Assembly adopted on the basis of a different procedure for determining the numerical membership of the State Duma are not "subject to revision."

The Constitutional Court's decision also says that the "constitutional clause on the total number of members of the Federation Council and deputies of the State Duma should be understood as envisaging separate voting by the chambers," whose numerical membership is laid down for each of them by the norm stipulated in the Constitution: namely, 178 for the Federation Council and 450 deputies for the State Duma.

The inquiry from the State Duma for an interpretation of the concept "total number" of deputies was examined by the Constitutional Court on 6 April. The State Duma's submission to the court pointed out in particular the uncertain nature of this figure, which is of fundamental importance for the Federal Assembly chamber, as the majority of votes needed for the adoption of decisions is determined on the basis of this figure. In the opinion of the Duma, the numerical membership of the lower chamber of parliament, as stipulated in the country's basic law, namely 450, is hardly acceptable as it does not reflect the true number of its elected deputies. For instance, the December 1993 elections to the State Duma were not held in Chechnya.

The Constitutional Court's ruling states that the adoption of the State Duma's suggested wording, whereby the "total number" would mean the total number of deputies actually elected, and deputies whose mandates had been terminated in line with procedure, "could produce a situation whereby the State Duma would be legally entitled to adopt decisions, even if it had actually lost the character of a representative body of authority embodying the interests of the majority of society. Such a development of parliamentary democracy would, in the view of the court, be illegitimate from the viewpoint of the Constitution.

Duma Approves Law To Amend Legislation on Central Bank

LD1204213195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1929 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Aleksandrova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The Russian State Duma today passed a federal law on "the introduction of amendments and additions to the RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic] law on the central bank of the RSFSR (Bank of Russia)".

The first draft of the law had been passed by the Duma in February of this year but turned down by President Yeltsin.

Commenting on the newly passed law, chairman of the State Duma budget, tax, banks and finance committee Mikhail Zadornov said "a reasonable compromise has been reached with the presidential side".

The law makes the Bank of Russia accountable to the State Duma, which in particular entitles the latter to appoint or dismiss, on the presidential recommendation, chairman of the bank and members of the board of directors. The bank must submit to the State Duma its annual account and auditor summary.

Zadornov pointed out that the Duma did not agree to the bank's accountability to the president "since this contradicts the principle of power separation".

Nonetheless, the law envisions that the Bank of Russia submit to the State Duma and the Russian president its information with the use of procedures set by federal laws.

In addition, the board of directors is to be appointed by the State Duma on commendation from chairman of the bank and approval from the president.

The Duma also passed a federal law on amendments to the Soviet-era law on banks and banking in Russia. The draft law has made account of proposals from a conciliatory commission of both houses of parliament. This law, previously turned down by the Federation Council, or the upper house, has got through the Duma today.

Rybkin on Talks With Crimean Supreme Council Speaker

LD1204215395 Moscow NTV in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Segodnya" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent Vladimir Lenskiy] Serhiy Tsekov, the chairman of the Crimean Supreme Council, who visited Moscow yesterday [11 April], this morning unexpectedly flew to Kiev for talks with Ukrainian Supreme Council leaders. A parliamentary delegation, led by Gennadiy Seleznev, a deputy chairman of the State Duma, left for Kiev with the Crimea Supreme Council speaker. This trip may be the outcome of the talks that Serhiy Tsekov had yesterday in the Duma with Ivan Rybkin and Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Committee for CIS Affairs. Our TV company has exclusive information about these talks.

According to Ivan Rybkin, Serhiy Tsekov said that Kiev had interfered in the power process in Crimea, flagrantly breaking the Constitution and law of Ukraine itself. Ivan Rybkin suggests that Crimea's autonomy should be reliably defended and all bodies of power in the republic should be working.

[Begin Rybkin recording, shown talking in a corridor in the Duma] We said that the Crimean problem is, above all, an internal Ukrainian one, but it must be resolved, of course taking into account the will of the Ukrainian people and on the basis of international law. Another issue is—and we must tread quite carefully here but, at the same time, I want to stress it again—that the expression of the will of the people of Crimea must not be flouted in any way. [end recording]

[Lenskiy] Rybkin thinks that the Crimean crisis can be resolved with the goodwill of the parliaments and presidents of Russia and Ukraine. Rybkin said that the Duma should not take a back seat in the search for a compromise.

It is still difficult to predict what will be the outcome of the meeting between leaders of the Russian, Ukrainian, and Crimean parliaments. How Kiev parliamentarians will react to the activity of the Russian Duma in resolving the crisis with Simferopol is unknown.

Duma Approves Draft Law To Amend Legislation on Procuracy

LD1204225995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1159 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 12 Apr—A draft federal law "On making amends and corrections to the law on the procuracy in the Russian Federation" was passed in the first reading by the State Duma today. The document has been drafted by a group of deputies from the Duma Committee for Legislation and Legal and Judicial Reform. Along with this bill, the deputies discussed and rejected the alternative draft bills on the procuracy, which have been submitted for Duma's consideration by the Russian president and members of the Federation Council's Committee for Legislation, Duma's Deputy Boris Zolotukhin, and the Legislative Assembly in Ivanovoskaya Region. [passage omitted]

The draft law also proposes that the Russian Prosecutor general's deputies should be appointed. It envisages that only the first deputy or deputies to the prosecutor general could become the acting prosecutor general, and specified the regulation for appointing the Prosecutor General by the Federation Council.

'Stability' Duma Group Seen Pursuing Antidemocratic Aims

MK1304065195 Moscow ROSSIYA in Russian No. 9, 12-18 Apr 95 p 4 (Signed to press 11 Apr 95)

[Report by Sergey Alekseyev under the "Big Maneuvers" rubric: "A Government of the 'Three Fat Men' ['Three Fat Men'—a children's book by Soviet writer Yuriy Olesha]"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Recent political events that seemed illogical and unrelated to each other no longer appear that way. The missing link that links them into a single chain proved to be a sensational, if not provocative, statement by Oleg Boyko, a big businessman and head of the "Olbi" concern, which coincided with the registration of a new faction, "Stability," at the State Duma. The keynote statement by the smiling businessman, who continues to urge everybody "to buy a little piece of 'Olbi'," sounds like a manifesto. The owner of a financial empire closely intertwined with the political elite has effectively called for the restriction of constitutional guarantees—with all the ensuing consequences. The establishment of a "new order" should start with the cancellation of elections—first parliamentary, then presidential. According to the concept to which Mr. Boyko gave voice, unidentified "responsible forces" should initiate this process.

Why is it that so outspoken a statement, allegedly on behalf of the tycoons of Russian business presenting a united front, was needed precisely at this stage? [passage omitted]

It is hard to believe that the issue is yet another attempt at playing politics. Despite Mr. Boyko's hopes, the "Stability" faction still numbers only 35 deputies. Many of those on whom Oleg Boyko pinned his hopes may end up in a different camp. Further proof of that is the signing of a cooperation agreement between the New Regional Policy [NRP] deputy group and the newly created "Russian Regions" movement, backed by the Oil Industrialists Union and the Federation of Commodities Producers headed by Yuriy Skokov. Meanwhile, the NRP, which is not a party faction, appears to be the most suitable material for building a new political structure. Therefore, the "Stability" faction's prospects with regard to purely parliamentary activity are far from bright.

At the same time, Boyko asserts that "the big league" of Russian business has given financial backing to the idea of setting up this deputy group and, naturally, will be patronizing it—that is, in the absence of relevant legislation, an official group of lobbyists has effectively been set up inside parliament. It will be in an excellent position to solve tactical matters: for instance, to slow down the adoption of legislative restrictions on the privatization of "Ostankino" television or to push through a decree on amnestying businesses that have taken their capital out of the country.

It should be noted, however, that Mr. Boyko did not once mention the need to amend the Constitution, that is, to lay a legal foundation for delaying elections. The adoption of such amendments will be a difficult task and one that a single Duma group will be unable to accomplish. It cannot be ruled out that the key function of "Stability" is to serve as a front for behind-the-scenes maneuvers by a group standing behind it. Arguing for the idea of canceling elections, Oleg Boyko says: "The president cannot afford to do so, nor does he wish to, for he has already begun preparing for elections." Doesn't this indicate that the advocates of stability are ready, if need be, to act even in defiance of the president? The situation is all the more curious because, according to Boyko, high-ranking officials of the presidential administration were involved in setting up the faction.

One can only conclude that it is an alliance of businessmen and their high-ranking "proxies" in the executive branch that stands for the retention of the existing balance of forces at any price. At the same time, they proceed not only from lofty considerations, but also from their own commercial interests. For even a slight change in the political situation (as a result of the elections) may catapult politicians, who support the interests of competitors of Mr. Boyko and his allies, into government offices. The retention of the status quo or even the merger of economic and political power would enable "the big league" to use administrative leverage in the competitive struggle. It is not by chance that the "manifesto" devotes a disproportionately large amount of space to attacks on rivals, both in business and in terms of their political sympathies.

A cancellation of elections, absolute control over television, and the resubordination of the power structures will constitute a new stage in bringing a "new order" to the country. Elections, once postponed, may well not take place at all or may be turned into a farce with results known beforehand. It was not by chance that in his interview Mr. Boyko calls any elections "a cataclysm" similar to a war or a natural disaster.

Since it is financial-industrial groups that may become the ideologists and, concurrently, the instruments of the policy of "stability," the next stage will involve a switch to the conversion of the key and most profitable sectors of the economy into monopolies. Free competition will be relegated to the level of small traders and manufacturers, while small and medium-size businesses will be forced to operate under tight restrictions. [passage omitted]

Effort To Form Dominant Centrist Bloc in Duma Said Failing

MK1304082595 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Natalya Arkhangelskaya: "Regrouping of Forces in State Duma. They Meant Well But the Result Is the Same Old Thing"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The "New Regional Policy" group of deputies held an unplanned press conference in the Duma yesterday. The group must have been stirred to remind people of its existence by the circumstance that its numerical strength, which had been declining for the last several months, has now fallen below the critical level of 35 people. What is happening to this faction signals that a rather vigorous process of regrouping forces is going on in the lower chamber.

The process of polarization of political forces, that has sharpened as the elections approach and has been made worse by the Chechen crisis, has made obvious the weakness of the stabilizing centrist principle in parliament. The joint efforts by the authorities and the deputies who decided to alter the prevailing situation have resulted in the emergence on the Duma scene of two new deputy groups—"Stability" and "Russia"—which instantly described themselves as firm centrists. The problem, however, was where to recruit members for the new groups. According to the strategists' plan (including those from power structures) a firm center was supposed to have emerged primarily from the destruction of the radical flanks. The result is somewhat different.

The advocates of centrism managed to split from the LDPR [Liberal Democratic Party of Russia] four Zhirinovskiyites (they left to join "Stability"), and three or four Agrarians quit to join the new groups. On the other hand, the Communists are monolithic—none of them has yielded to the centrist temptation. In nearly eighteen months, the faction lost only two members: Martemyanov died and Kovalev, who is justice minister today, was expelled for a breach of the faction's discipline.

There is more destruction on the right flank. "Russia's Choice," formerly the biggest faction, lost up to a fifth of its membership. Most of the former "Russia's Choice" members joined the new groups. The PRES faction lost nearly a third of its members, and seven people quit the DPR [Democratic Party of Russia]. The situation in "Yabloko," which is built on the one-man command principle, is as follows: One deputy left to join "Stability," and another was expelled for dissension. The resulting losses match those of the Communists. Boris Fedorov's "12 December" group totally collapsed but this had happened even before "Stability" was created. However, the majority of Decembrists proved to be centrists deep in their hearts. But the greatest losses have been suffered by "New Regional Policy," which is as a result on the brink of total disappearance: Out of 64 people there remain 34.

One can only conclude that the good objective of splitting the anti-government and anti-president forces in the Duma has not yet been reached. The anti-government "Yabloko" and the Communists have preserved their monolithic integrity, but factions that often support the government—the LDPR and the "Russia's Choice"—have suffered. "New Regional Policy"—a group whose members were elected in single-candidate districts, and which is centrist by definition—is, contrary to all logic, disintegrating. True, KOMMERSANT-DAILY has information that it will not be allowed to perish—there has been a directive from the top.

Curiously, the destructive fever has not affected "Women of Russia." Its strength is the same as it was on the day the Duma opened—23 deputies.

Duma Calls For Economic Sanctions Against Estonia

MM1304093495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Apr 95 First Edition p 4

["Decree No. 621-1 SD of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma on Economic Sanctions Against the Republic of Estonia," signed by I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma, and dated Moscow, 24 March 1995]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the Estonian Republic the Russian and Russian-speaking population is subjected to political, legal, social, and economic discrimination and a legislative mechanism has been created for forcing out, or even directly deporting, the non-Estonian population from the republic. Russian Federation citizens living on Estonian territory are subjected to persecutions and restrictions of their rights. Thus a decision was adopted 22 March 1995 to deport from Estonia P.M. Rozhok, a leader of the Russian community in Estonia, on a trumped-up political pretext.

The Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma resolves:

To propose to the Russian Federation president that he examine the question of introducing economic sanctions against the Estonian Republic, retaining them until a radical improvement occurs in the situation as regards ethnic Russians, in accordance with international pacts on human rights.

[Signed] I.P. Rybkin, chairman of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly State Duma

[Dated] Moscow, 24 March 1995.

Kolesnikov Briefs Duma Geopolitics Committee on Funding

MM1304111595 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Vladimir Yermolin: "Hard To Reform Army With Pennies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Hearings on "The Army and the Future of Russian Statehood" organized by the State Duma Geopolitics Committee were held at the Parliamentary Center on Tsvetnoy Boulevard Tuesday 11 April.

Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces General Staff, spoke during the hearings. He drew attention to the difficult financial position in which the Army finds itself. In particular, the following figures (which our readers are already familiar with) were cited: The Defense Ministry suffered a 12-trillion ruble [R] funding shortfall from the federal budget in 1994, as a result of which the department itself found itself incurring "bad debts"—the defense industry is owed R7.8 trillion.

In general it is hard to talk about effective reform of the Army when the financial burden around its neck is getting ever heavier. For instance, the lack of funds deprives the Armed Forces of the ability to introduce the contract system. Contract privates cost R12-15 million a year, whereas draftees cost no more than R3 million.

Colonel General Kolesnikov drew the parliamentarians' attention to the impermissibly low level of purchases of new, modern equipment. Whereas in the developed European countries such equipment comprises 70 percent of the inventory, in our Army it accounts for just 30 percent. Those who will have to serve in the troops after the year 2000 will have only obsolete, outdated equipment available to them. The program for the social protection of servicemen has also been affected. Half of the funds due for these purposes have not been allocated.

Regional Affairs

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Grachev: 'Unconfirmed' Reports Say Dudayev Killed or Wounded

LD1204191395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Irkutsk, April 12 (Interfax)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said today that, according to unconfirmed information, Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev has been "either killed or wounded."

An Interfax correspondent, accompanying Grachev in his trip across the country, reports that Grachev announced this when answering questions posed by servicemen, during a visit to a military unit in the Irkutsk Region (Siberia).

Grachev declined to reveal his sources.

However, neither Russian nor Chechen sources have reported that Dudayev is either wounded or killed. The Russian Federal Security Service told Interfax that it knew nothing about Dudayev being killed or wounded.

Speaking about the situation in Chechnya after federal troops seizing Gudermes, Argun, Shali and large populated centers in West Chechnya, Grachev said that there were now 4,000-5,000 militants in Chechnya. He said units of militants were separated and mainly seek to launch sabotage actions against the Russian army. He said about 90 percent of bandit formations had been neutralized.

Grachev denied statements about clumsy actions by Russian troops in Chechnya. He said that taking into consideration the circumstances of the operation, the federal troops had used only 20-30 percent of their military potential.

Grachev explained the serious losses among federal troops by saying that Dudayev supporters had offered much more active resistance than was expected.

Grachev said that the military must be reformed taking into consideration the experience of the Chechen operation. He said that tactics of the army in large populated centers would be changed as well as the army's equipment.

Chechen Intelligence Chief Says Dudayev 'Safe and Sound'

LD1304085895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0832 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nadezhda Chaikova]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev is safe and sound and is currently staying in one of the camps of Chechen militants in the mountains in the south of the republic, TASS learned on Thursday from the Chechen military intelligence chief Ruslan Movsayev. He admitted, however, that there was an attempt to eliminate Dudayev.

Movsayev told TASS by telephone that the media reports, which quoted Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev as saying that Dudayev had been either wounded or killed, do not correspond to reality.

He explained that on Wednesday Russian artillery shelled and destroyed a house in the village of Serzhen-Yurt, some 15 kilometres south of Shali, where Dudayev had stayed. However, he had left the house two hours before the shelling.

"Dzhokhar Dudayev and his entourage were not injured", Movsayev said.

He also added that this was a precision fire on the house, as the rest of the village was not shelled.

Dudayev Forces Agitating South of Samashki

LD1204131395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (INTERFAX)— The commanders of the Russian Interior Ministry's troops met with the head of local administration and police, the prosecutor, church notables and the elders of the village of Achkhoy-Martan in the west of Chechnya.

The press center of the command of the joint federal grouping in Chechnya informed Interfax on Wednesday that the local authorities had thanked the command of the interior troops "for the peaceful liberation of Achkhoy-Martan and the adjacent districts from militants." The two sides also discussed problems of joint patrolling of the Achkhoy-Martan region and the motorways.

Commander of the interior troop grouping Lieutenant-General Antonov guaranteed assistance to the local residents in deactivating mines in buildings, industrial enterprises and fields, which is particularly important during the spring sowing campaign.

The press center also reports that an agreement was reached on cooperation between the federal grouping and the authorities of the villages of Valerik and Katar-Yurt.

Meanwhile, supporters of Dudayev are reported to have increased their efforts to win the backing of the population south of the village of Samashki. "They are spreading anti-Russian and anti-army rumors, and intimidate the population in an attempt to talk them out of returning home," the press center said.

Rumors are also being spread that the militants' command is planning to carry out a series of explosions in large villages and a large-scale military operation against the federal troops and ethnic Russians living in Groznyy.

During the nights, militants continue to shell the interior troops located near the village of Bamut.

The commandant's station in Groznyy's Leninskiy district and the control post in the city's Zavodskoy district were shelled.

Three grenades were thrown into the garrison of the interior troops in the village of Znamenskoye (Nadterechnyy Region). No one was injured.

'Provocative Actions' on Dagestan Border Continue

LD1204155595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1402 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gadzhiy Shamov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Makhachkala April 12 TASS—Dudayev-led Chechen rebels are continuing provocative actions on the border between Dagestan and Chechnya.

According to military sources, Chechen armed groups tried an incursion into Dagestan's Novolakskiy district late on Tuesday.

However, the groups were stoppped in a brief but fierce fighting with federal troops. Rebel casulaties are unknown.

Several shells were fired from Chechnya on border-close Dagestan villages. One civilian was wounded.

The situation is disturbing in the high-mountain Botlikhskiy district of Dagestan on the border with Chechnya's Vedenskiy district, where rebel formations are seen to be making a massive buildup. The rebels periodically shell Russian border troops guarding the Andi Pass.

Dagestan is alarmed over the Nozhay-Yurtovskiy district of Chechnya, where dozens of makeshift refinery installations make emissions into the river Yaman-Su and the atmosphere.

Despite an earlier agreement of the two republics' district administrations on a stop to the emissions, the practice is continued, causing serious environmental and economic harm to Dagestan.

Shakhray Says Peace Conference To Be Held in Groznyy

LD1304103695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0954 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—Representatives of federal authorities and chiefs of local committees of national accord in Chechnya may convene a peace conference in the Chechen capital Groznyy in April, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray told reporters on Thursday.

The aim of such a conference is to reconcile the Chechen people, and to prepare for elections which are likely to occur in the autumn, Shakhray said.

Shakhray made it clear that no talks with separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev will be held. He said that although the recent Duma law calls to start unconditional peace negotiations with commanders of Chechen militants, this does not mean that the talk is about Dudayev. "The necessity to hold negotiations with Dudayev does not proceed from provisions of the given law", he said.

He stressed that the concept approved by the Russian president and the prime minister suggested holding elections to local self-rule bodies which would be followed by Chechen parliamentary elections.

Eight out of the 11 regions of the Chechen republic are ready to conduct elections to the local self-rule bodies. Chechen parliamentary elections may occur after the situation fully normalizes, the deputy prime minister said.

Soskovets Says Russia To 'Instruct' Chechen Officials

LD1104195795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1932 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax)—Chechnya's government of national revival is very ineffective and federal authorities will have to instruct Chechen officials, including Prime Minister Salambek Khadzhiyev in many skills, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets said. He was speaking at the session of the state commission for restoring the Chechen economy that he heads.

Soskovets said that in Groznyy measures must be taken against Dudayev's militants. Apart from that the Chechen capital must be cleared of debris and the electricity supply restored by May.

Soskovets said that when he visits Groznyy next he will focus on communal services, primarily the clearing of streets. The Ministry of Labor has been asked to draft a resolution by April 13 on financing such work.

Deputy chief of the territorial department of federal executive bodies Vladimir Zorin has suggested earmarking 1 billion rubles for the purpose. He believes that those employed in clearing the city must be paid 10,000 rubles a day.

Zorin said the formation of local bodies of government is about to be completed. Twenty prefectures have opened. A month-long campaign will begin in Groznyy for clearing the city as of April 15.

Six bus lines have opened in the city and another 10 are to be commissioned shortly. The bus fleet will grow to 100 vehicles. Before the beginning of combat operations in Groznyy there were 23 bus lines and a bus fleet of about 250 vehicles.

Russian Commander Pledges To Spare Complying Villages

LD1204174095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1325 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy April 12 TASS—Commander of the Western Grouping of Federal Troops, Colonel-General Anatoliy Antonov, promised that Chechnya's residential areas which stop armed resistance would not be blasted with rockets and bombs.

Antonov pledged this during his Tuesday meeting in Achkhoy-Martan with a delegation of the Chechen National Reconciliation Committee, a new authority of Chechnya. The delegation was led by Committee Deputy Chairman Lechi Magomedov.

Antonov assured the delegation that he is not an advocate of power argument but rather prefers to seek an understanding and cooperation with the civilian population.

The Russian general also said he already had ordered his troops to lift the blockade of Achkhoy-Martan and pull back, to act further only in touch with local self-rule authorities.

Antonov said a similar approach would be used towards the villages of Katyr-Yurt and Valerik which lie in the route of the federal troops in western Chechnya.

Moscow Instructs Departments To Assist Red Cross

LD1204220195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government has instructed relevant departments to render necessary assistance to representatives of the International Red Cross on a humanitarian mission in Chechnya. Humanitarian aid from this organization destined for the Chechen population will be allowed to enter the Chechen Republic without hindrance.

Pacific Marines Set To Rotate Out

LD1104180595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok, April 11 (INTERFAX- EURASIA) — Russian Defense Chief Pavel Grachev has endorsed the pullout schedule for Pacific Fleet [PF] Marines from the frontline in Chechnya, the PF headquarters told Interfax on Tuesday.

Teams of officers from the three Russian fleets (Pacific [PF], Baltic [BF] and Northern [NF]) are due to arrive in Groznyy on April 16 to try to clear the ground for the arrival of three battalions of Marines to Chechnya after April 20. The new men are to be airlifted to the Groznyy airport to replace the PF Marines.

A group of PF officers is to be put in charge of the new regiment consisting of PF, BSF and NF Marines.

Elmurzayev Urges Dudayev Supporters To Lay Down Arms

LD1304114495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1059 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sharip Asuyev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy April 13 TASS—Gersolt Elmurzayev, deputy chairman of the Chechen committee for national accord, has urged supporters of Dzhokhar Dudayev to give up armed resistance and take part in the working out of a Chechen peace charter.

In a special address, broadcast by Groznyy TV, he stressed again that anyone who voluntarily laid down arms would not be prosecuted.

The Chechnya peace charter is expected to be signed at a conference of all the public and political forces in the republic which is scheduled for April 21. It is believed in Groznyy that without the participation of Dudayev supporters the documents will be ineffective.

153,000 Chechen Refugees Registered in Ingushetia

LD1204204695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1714 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maisigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran April 12 TASS—The number of Chechen refugees registered by the Migration Service of the neighbouring Ingush Republic to date has reached 153,000 people and continues growing.

According to Migration Service officials, the bulk of Chechen refugees is currently flowing from the Achkhoy-Martan region, southwest of the capital Groznyy, as well as from around the town of Shali.

Official Publication Details Dudayev Regime 'Atrocities'

MK0804082395 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 2

[Unattributed report under the "Non-Stop Around the Clock" rubric: "1-0 in Favor of 'Official Sources'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Federation MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] publishing group has brought out in close cooperation with the FSK [Federal Counterintelligence Service] and the Russian Federation Defense Ministry a collection entitled "Kriminalnyy rezhim. Chechnya, 1991-95" [Criminal Regime. Chechnya 1991-95] describing, in the language of "facts, documents, and evidence," the atrocities of the criminal regime of Dzhokhar Dudayev. In the expression of a compiler, "no one is prohibited from collecting alternative documents and bringing out alternative books."

Furthermore, many of the "pieces of eyewitness testimony" are anonymous or derive "from citizens' letters."

The authors do not hide their prime task: to be hostile to those who might prevent them from carrying out their difficult task, and to get public opinion to incline toward a certain side by means of their agitation work. A collection of frankly provocative posters will undoubtedly hype the above oeuvre.

The book and an album of cartoons have been brought out with the backing of such serious and powerful structures as the FSK, MVD, and the Defense Ministry with the aid of the Krasnaya Zvezda Publishing House, but the small print run makes you wonder. Was commonplace agitation on the spot the goal of the whole exercise? The editorial board does not hide the fact that most of the printed copies were shipped directly to the zone of combat operations and outlying areas, and to big and small military units.

Volumes two and three with documents and corresponding analysis are in preparation for publication.

Grachev Visits Air Base Near Saratov

LD1304095895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0811 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS freelance correspondent Sergey Mikhaylov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Saratov, 13 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—Russian Federation Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, who arrived in Saratov on Wednesday, visited an air base near Saratov where he familiarized himself with the progress of eliminating strategic bombers within the framework of the START-2 Treaty. Pavel Grachev is now in the Taman strategic missile forces division stationed in the settlement of Tatishchevo-5 near Saratov.

Today the defense minister will go to Kostroma, where he will continue his working tour of the strategic missile forces units.

Reportage on Far East Miners' Strike

Miners Strike Despite Government Promises

LD1204053295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0130 GMT 12 Apr 95

[ITAR-TASS correspondent Leonid Vinogradov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vladivostok, 12 Apr—Not a single coalminer in the town of Partizansk went down to the pit-face today, despite the promise of Yuriy Shafranik, the Russian Federation minister of fuel and power engineering who arrived in the Far East on 11 April and had a meeting with them, to pay overdue wages in full to all miners in the Maritime territory.

The workers of the "Glubokaya" coalmine which the minister visited, as well as the employees of four other mines in Partizansk, disregarded his arguments, declaring that they will continue their strike until their wage arrears are paid off. [passage omitted]

Misuse of Federal Funds in Primorye Under Investigation

LD1104182095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 11 (INTERFAX-EURASIA)—Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) officials arriving in Primorye as members of a Russian government commission, will study the situation around the possible misuse of over 17 billion rubles in federal subsidies, transferred to Primorye last year, a spokesman for the FSK Public Relations Center told Interfax on Tuesday.

The government commission led by Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik, arrived in Vladivostok (the Primorye Territory, the Russian Far East) on Tuesday to study the crisis situation in the Territory's fuel and energy complex.

The Primorskugol joint-stock company received 17,810 million rubles early in 1994 to develop production and to make up for financial losses. According to the territorial prosecutor's office, the company's former management misused the subsidies as interest-free loans and credits in banks and commercial structures. Part of this money, believes the prosecutor, was also illegally invested in the charter capital of the Vladivostok Times newspaper and the Evrougol trading house.

The Primorye Prosecutor's Office instituted criminal proceedings into the case.

Chubays Blames Maritime Kray Leadership

MK1104101395 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Darya Korsunskaya in the "Investigation" column: "The Crisis in the Maritime Kray Has Been Caused by 'Deliberate Actions by Local Authorities.' Governor Nazdratenko's Career Is Under Threat"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays told a press conference yesterday that the government has provided 50 billion rubles in subsidies for the payment of back wages to the miners: "A money order for this sum has already gone out." Furthermore, a session of the Federal Energy Commission, which was also held yesterday, decided to abolish the old, lower electrical energy tariffs in the Maritime Kray. According to Yuriy Shafranik, this will also substantially help the miners.

The situation in the Maritime Kray remains complex, however. Yesterday, the Maritime Kray miners strike committee decided not to cancel the "state of strike" until their back wages are paid in full. [passage omitted]

Anatoliy Chubays stressed that in the course of the miners' crisis, "which has been followed by all Russia with great concern," it was as though the local Maritime Kray authorities "did not exist." Governor [Yevgeniy] Nazdratenko "went to London for an unknown mission and did not even once get in touch with the government by phone." The governor's "right hand man," Lebedinets, chairman of the Kray Duma, "instead of performing his clear duty and trying to resolve the crisis, called for the Trans-Siberian Railway line to be closed, and made other appeals for insubordination against the federal authorities." "All this suggests that we are dealing not with a simple mistake by the Maritime Kray authorities but deliberate political actions. Some people very much wanted to destabilize the situation in the region," Anatoliy Chubays said.

The first vice premier said that a government commission, headed by Yuriy Shafranik and including representatives of the Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, will fly to Vladivostok on a special flight today. The commission is entrusted with "conducting an on-site investigation and establishing the role of the Maritime Kray administration, and Mr. Nazdratenko in person, in the conflict's escalation." [passage omitted]

Chubays' Accusations Rejected

LD1204165595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] VLADIVOSTOK, April 12 (Interfax-Eurasia)—The accusations made against the administration of Primorye territory put forward by Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays due to the crisis situation in Primorye's fuel and energy complex reflect "the striving to put the responsibility for the consequences of the whole economic policy in the country on the leaders of the regions," says a statement of the territorial administration distributed by press secretary of Primorye's governor Natalya Vstovskaya Wednesday evening.

Addressing a briefing on April 10 Chubays declared that Primorye's leadership "demonstratively" allowed the worsening of the situation in the region. In his words, the local administration's actions, beginning with procurements of lower-quality but more expensive coal abroad and ending with threats to block the Trans-Siberian main railway line, serve as a reason for competent bodies to consider the issue on the role of the regional leadership in this crisis.

Such statements contradict the real situation in Primorye territory, the statement says. The administration makes certain efforts to find assets in the territorial budget to pay wages to its miners and coordinates actions of the territorial enterprises to clear the debt.

"It seems that Chubays does not have many arguments against Primorye governor [Yevgeniy] Nazdratenko if he blames him even for his three-day participation in the conference of the managing directors of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development held once a year in London, at which Nazdratenko represents the interests of Primorye territory but not his own private ones," the document underlines.

Moscow Pays Wage Debt to Miners

LD1204185195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1546 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Krivolapov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok April 12 TASS—The delayed wage began to be paid today to mines in the Maritime Territory, Russian Far East.

"People will go to their workplaces as soon as they get their pay," ITAR-TASS was told by Boris Lisovskiy, deputy managing director of the joint-stock company "Primorskugol".

Russian Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik told a field session held by his Ministry's collegium in Vladivostok today that the government had found means to repay its debt to the territory's mines.

Fifty billion rubles has already been transferred to the territory, and only cash shortage has delayed the payment until Tuesday.

A payment order has been signed for the remaining 30 billion which is en route to the Maritime Territory.

All the territory's miners will get their wage, including for March, within three-four days, Shafranik said.

To hasten the payment, the government has signed an agreement with the local administration on moving the finance into the coal sector without delay.

Shafranik said he as a government member promised that from April onward every ruble would come from Moscow to the Maritime Territory on a due day sharp.

Miners' Strike Ends

LD1304053795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0529 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Krivolapov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok April 13 TASS—A strike of mineworkers ended today in the Primorye region, and they returned to their working places. The payment of wages for the past several months began at all the coal mines. After preparatory work, needed after the interruption of coal production, coal will start being delivered soon in full amount to enterprises of the electric power sector.

However, the payment of the wage debt to miners does not resolve the problem of non-payments in general, chairman of the territorial committee of coal miners Petr Kiryanov told ITAR-TASS. A social explosion was prevented in the Primorye region thanks to the money from the federal budget and the financial resources of the Rosugol concern. So far as coal consumers are concerned, including local administrtions of Primorye cities, they still do not pay debts to coal miners. Aside from it, 50 billion rubles that came from the federal budget and 5.4 billion roubles from Rosugol will be enough only for paying wages. About as much money is needed for paying taxes, fees to the state insurance fund, the pension fund etc. The government is now considering a possibility of postponing those payments.

St. Petersburg Rally Calls For Government's Resignation

LD1204185695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, April 12 (Interfax)—A mass rally in St. Petersburg Wednesday demanded the government's resignation, early presidential elections in 1995 and end to bloodshed in Chechnya.

The rally was organized by the St.Petersburg Unions' Federation and was attended by about 55,000 people.

The demonstrators marched down the city's streets, including the Nevskyy Prospekt where the police had to stop the traffic.

The rally also demanded delayed wages, already exceeding 67 trillion rubles, be repaid and the unemployment rate reduced.

Sakhalin Governor Krasnoyarov Submits Resignation

LD1204165895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YUZHNOSAKHALINSK, April 12 (Interfax-Eurasia)—The governor of Sakhalin region (the Far East) Yevgeniy Krasnoyarov has sent President Boris Yeltsin a letter of resignation for health reasons. In a Wednesday interview with Interfax he accounted his urgent decision to leave his post to the fact that the new governor must have time to prepare the region for the cold season.

According to the press center of the regional administration, a confirmation of the acceptance of the resignation has been received from the presidential administration even though an appropriate decree has not been signed yet.

The regional Duma has appealed to the president and prime minister to hold elections of the governor instead of appointing him.

Krasnoyarov, 55, was appointed governor on April 8, 1993. Before that he was the general director of the Soviet-Japanese joint venture Pilenga Godo.

Variant Drafts of Moscow City Charter Viewed

MM1204102495 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Anatoliy Baranov: "Duel Over Charter. Moscow Duma: Drafts and Harebrained Schemes"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] So, the Moscow City Duma is currently examining three draft charters for the city of Moscow. One has been submitted by the Duma itself. It cost the long-suffering taxpayers 35 million rubles to draw up. The second has been submitted personally by Deputy Korotich and has, according to him, not cost the city a kopek. The third has been prepared on behalf of the mayor of Moscow, and the amount spent on it is a commercial secret.

On checking it emerged that only two drafts are really being scrutinized—those of Korotich and the mayor—as the one prepared by the Duma commission is practically a carbon copy of the mayor's charter, with the exception of its chapter on self-government—self-government being the "hobby horse" of Deputy Plotnikov, whose signature is on the draft. In his version the description of a system of city self-government accounts for 12 articles, whose total length is greater than this newspaper article. Everything is simple in the mayor's version—the unit of self-government in Moscow is...the city of Moscow. There are no self-government councils—only City Hall and the city Duma. This somewhat goes against the Russian Federation Constitution, in which the concepts of "Federation component" and "unit of self-government" diverge, but there is every reason to believe that it will be the mayor's version that will be adopted.

The delicacy of the situation over the large expenditure on what are almost identical drafts is added to by the fact that the documents' main provisions had already been formulated in the former Moscow City Soviet.

Of course, this changes nothing. For instance, the words "No one can arrogate power in Moscow" appear in all versions. But it is clear to everybody that such a statement sounds somewhat "conditional."

It is interesting that the "Federation component" includes both the earth below and the air above it, which somewhat contradicts federal legislation but on the other hand legitimizes the excavation of Manezh Square by the City Hall's men.

The most interesting draft is definitely that of Deputy Korotich. It will certainly not be adopted, therefore it is the most interesting of all to dwell upon.

Korotich is proposing considering not just people registered in Moscow as full-fledged Muscovites, but also anyone who was careless enough to be born in Moscow at some time.

He goes on to examine the possibility of creating power and law-enforcement structures whose activities are not determined by federal legislation. He proposes the introduction of a city banking system (the Moscow Municipal Bank).

Korotich not only goes on to propose making the office of mayor an elected one but also to bring back the office of deputy mayor (having the function of premier of the city's government) and to elect prefects in the districts. The city council, as the equivalent of the Federation Council in the Federal Assembly, should be formed from these citizens. The system of checks and balances proposed by him within the tree of power would hardly appeal to the main mayoral branch, even if the deputies took it into their heads to vote for Korotich's draft.

Mr. Korotich miscalculated about one thing. In proposing equal rights for different forms of land ownership in Moscow, he inadvertently trod on the corns of the mayor, who has already become accustomed to considering himself sovereign master of the capital's real estate.

And the article which says that nonbudget funds and their accounts should be confirmed by the City Duma is absolutely off target. This money is just like pocket money to the city government: Who is going to allow all kinds of deputies to poke their noses into his pockets? This is no Chicago where all nonbudget expenditures in excess of $1,000 are confirmed by the city council. This is Moscow, the capital of our homeland—the Russian Federation, where, it is estimated, nonbudget funds are larger than the budget.

Korotich will not get through.

Of course, the main point of the future city charter—as of any charter—will be: "The commander is always right," or if he is wrong, see above. Of course, it is not envisaged that the city folk will receive any real benefits by it, but on the other hand they will get all sorts of things—an anthem, a coat of arms, a flag. Of course, no one would take part in a referendum on the charter, so everything will be adopted in secret—34 people, for whom a very small percentage of the electorate voted in the elections, will decide for us how we should live in the future.

Mayor Details Novosibirsk Budget Problems

954F2043A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 4

[Article by unidentified correspondent: "Holes in the Budget, and Disappointing News Again"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **In his speech to the medical community of the city, Mayor Viktor Tolokonskiy reported that Novosibirsk's credit indebtedness (for already completed work, rendered services, and acquired materials) amounts to R220 billion [rubles] toward the end of the first quarter. At the same time, the monthly city budget is R50 billion.**

The city is ending the cold season with an indebtedness for consumed electric power of R140 billion. There are no resources for the development of the city: All construction is being conducted now on investment money. It is impossible to replenish public transportation rolling stock (it is 50 percent of the norm). The city administration is forced to take more credits in the first quarter in order to carry out the minimum capital repair of the metro. Metro construction will also be continued owing to attracted resources. There is also no money for the capital repair of schools for the new school year: For current repair, 250 schools need about R25 billion. There are practically no resources for the maintenance of the housing fund, including departmental housing.

Moreover, the city never resolved many of these problems before: It did not finance either the construction or the operation of the metro, and it did not purchase public motor vehicle transport—all of this was done in a centralized way. Budget money was never invested in departmental housing; to the contrary, enterprises prepared practically the entire city for winter. And against this background, a continuous reduction is occurring in the financial base of the city, and federal authorities are making a decision concerning the centralization of a whole series of taxes, after which only 30 percent of all of the tax revenues is left for the city.

And, still, the city is living.

Novosibirsk Agriculture in 'Critical Situation'

954F2043B Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 5

[Article by Vadim Yuryev: "Once Again Spring Did Not Come at the Right Time; 88 Percent of the Directors of Agricultural Enterprises of the Oblast Assess the Economic Situation of Their Farms as Extremely Unfavorable"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A critical situation has developed in the oblast with the preparations for the spring field campaign. True, the farm problems are basically the same ones that there were last year, and the year before that. But now these problems have worsened to such a degree that their quantity has already carried over into their quality.**

Ivan Indinok became exasperated at one of the meetings at the end of winter:

"For the last three years, the sowing areas on the farms in our oblast have been reduced by 350,000 hectares, or by 10 percent. In 1994, given a crop yield of 11.5 quintals from a hectare, a total of more than 2 million tonnes of grain were gathered; that is, on an average, 800 kilograms for each resident of the oblast. It was not long ago that we were getting more than a tonne per resident...."

But if now the oblast suddenly ends its harvest with the kind of indicators that depress the governor, this will have to be considered a major success of the reformation of the kolkhoz system. For the reason that it could be much worse.

According to data at the end of March, on the whole the farms in the oblast were supplied 12 percent of the needed diesel fuel (the requirement was 1.148 million tonnes), and 142,000 tonnes were available, and 9 percent of the needed gasoline (58,500 and 5,100, respectively). Things are even worse with mineral fertilizers: Barely half a tonne will be acquired in the whole oblast—approximately 1 percent of that which is required. In comparison with these figures, the statistics on the readiness of agricultural equipment can even make one happy: 60 percent of the tractors and 74 percent of the sowing and soil-cultivating equipment has been repaired. But N. Bogach, the supervisor of the department of agricultural policy and agricultural machine building of the interregional Siberian Agreement Association, does not particularly advise trusting these data, believing them most likely to be overstated.

"If about 10 farms are left in Novosibirsk, where there are equipment repair schedules, then it is still good," says Nikolay Vasilyevich. "But a majority of the former kolkhozes and sovkhozes have forgotten about schedules: If a tractor is in operation today, then it is considered ready for the sowing. But it could break down in a month; after all, preventive maintenance is not conducted...."

Moreover, it must be taken into account that the oblast is short 1,600 tractors. And also 1,000 trucks and a minimum of 1,300 combines. According to the words of I. Korniyenko, chief of the mechanization, power engineering, and transport section of the department of agriculture of the oblast administration, "It is impossible to implement the planned volume of work without replenishing the inventory of agricultural equipment. About a total of R270 billion rubles is required for this replenishment. But no one is promising such an investment."

It is good that at least R16 billion arrived from the federal budget for the oblast for the purchase of fuels and lubricants. But a problem arose here as well: If this money is issued as it is supposed to be, through a bank, then the billions will instantly go for the payment of debts of semi-bankrupt farms. Therefore, the local authorities had to act resourcefully: They transferred the money directly to the suppliers of GSM [fuels and lubricants] through V. Basalayev's commercial firm Trans-blok. Diesel fuel and oil should be delivered right now to the farms—the season of bad roads is just about to start....

But our farmers are in an even worse situation.

"We just received R700 million from the oblast," recounts A. Zaretskiy, the deputy chairman of the oblast association of peasant farms and agricultural cooperatives. "Now we do not know what to do with them: If we divide them equally among all farmers, then each one will get about R100,000. This will be enough to buy fuel for two days of work in the sowing. The oblast also transferred R850 million of centralized credits to us, but R700 million of them got held up somewhere, because the Central Bank does not conduct any kind of payments for the Agro-industrial Bank—it has a lot of debts. But what happened to them? In the beginning, our bank was forced to extend credit wittingly to unprofitable agricultural enterprises, but now the government does not want to help it. If the Agro-industrial Bank is still not helped in the very near future (just one of its branches in Novosibirsk Oblast has more than R50 billion in losses), this will be a catastrophe for the farmers....

However, many of the directors of the former sovkhozes-kolkhozes that were renamed joint-stock companies would very likely argue with the farmers regarding whose situation was worse. Eighty-eight percent of the directors and specialists of agricultural enterprises assess the economic position of their farms as extremely unfavorable or, at best, simply unfavorable. But 52.4 percent declare: Everything is so bad that it is no longer possible to tolerate. This is the data of a poll conducted in our oblast by a group of scientists from the Institute of Economics of the Siberian Department of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

In previous years in preparing for sowing, agronomists linked their prospects for a harvest with the weather. But now they are not particularly concerned—the forecasts of the Hydrometeorological Center do not interest them very much, and they do not remember the folk wisdom. They say: What is the difference? Whether the weather is dry or rainy, this does not mean much for the results of the harvest in comparison with the fact that the sowing areas are again being cut sharply and that the sowed fields will be left without mineral fertilizers. Weeds grow well in any weather....

I did not want to draw the situation in exclusively gloomy tones—I began to search for at least one bright spot. And I found it. The department of agricultural policy of the Siberian Agreement compared today's level of preparation for the spring field work of our oblast with others and said: Novosibirsk is among the best.

But what then is taking place in the other regions?

Economic Issues

Yasin Says Government Ready To Talk to Unions

LD1104201295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1847 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 11 (Interfax)—The Russian government is ready for dialogue with the trade unions and is doing its best to repay delayed wages, the bulk of which are owed to the defense complex and education, Russian Economics Minister Yevgeniy Yasin told a news conference in Moscow Tuesday.

According to Yasin, the government thoroughly examined unions' demands and will hold talks with the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FNPR) [FITUR] later this month. The federation plans to hold a nationwide action in protest of the reduction in living standards on April 12.

Yasin admitted "a serious decline in people's living standards due to the growth of prices, notably from September 1994 through January 1995." The government intends to propose the State Duma (lower house of parliament) raise the minimum wage to 39,000 rubles a month until the end of this year. However, this is not an issue for the near future, he added.

At the same time, Yasin believes that the growth of prices can be stopped "only by combatting inflation." "The strict federal budget for 1995 must be fulfilled if Russia wants to break through the crisis," he remarked.

According to Yasin, "the crisis stage of the Russian economy's development is about to end." "Certain financial recovery signs have appeared" and the country is entering a "period of depressive stabilization," he said.

Trade Unionists Picket White House

LD1204162395 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Video report by correspondent S. Zenin; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Video shows crowd near Russian parliament building carrying trade-union flags, various placards and red banners] While Muscovites were going to work according to their regular schedule, representatives of the capital's labor collectives gathered near Russia's parliament building. Today's action by the Federation of Independent Trade Unions was for a slogan that has been forgotten in recent times—To each according to his labor—to be brought back to life for real. According to the Federation's figures, about 38,000 enterprises have failed to pay workers for work done, while the state's debt to workers at enterprises long ago exceeded 5.5 trillion rubles. One could even hear these people saying: Down with the government. In such a situation, participation of the Communists in picketing of the Russian White House is understandable and justifiable. The desire to make their political name on the basis of problems of all the people is a familiar feature of recent history. The slogans were many and varied, from purely revolutionary calls to attempts to proclaim people's own vision of the situation in the country. But one way or another, they capture the feeling of serious tension among the people that came to the White House. [video includes shots of placards reading: No to the poverty-stricken existence of popular education workers in Klimovsk; Let Yeltsin have a teacher's pay!; Enough of your tripe, gentlemen! People need food on the table!; Chernomyrdin, you and all your ministers know where you can go!]

It would seem that despite the very varied, sometimes opposing political views of those gathered, they are capable of some kind of explosive unity.

Further on White House Protest

LD1204171895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1255 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Igor Belskiy and Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Trade union activists from several regions of the country and representatives from the some specialised unions affiliated to the Federation of Independent Russian Trade Unions gathered at the building of the Russian Government here today. The action is being held within the frameworks of the day of all-Russia united trade union actions.

The purpose of the picketing is to inform government members about the demands of the working people—to settle the state's debt for unpaid wages, to prevent wholesale unemployment, to hold parliamentary and presidential elections within the timelimits fixed by the Constitution.

ITAR-TASS was told by a high-ranking police official, responsible for law and order around the government building, that there were now from 2.5 to 3 thousand picketmen there. The trade union activists were joined by members of the Communist Parties and movements "solidarising" with them.

The participants of the action are on the whole in a peaceful mood. They display lively reaction only to the arriving automobiles in which government officials are going to work. The picketmen urge them to come out to "speak to the people". In such cases the police tries to force a "corridor" through the crowd in order to let the cars drive in and threatens to punish the traffic violators.

First Vice-Premier Anatoliy Chubays had talks with leaders of the Federation of Independent Russian Trade Unions on Tuesday. The latter had approved the Government's measures to improve the situation in the social sphere, noting, however, that protest actions, like the one held today, contribute to the progress of their talks with the authorities. This is why they did not cancel the action, merely noting that the Federation did not demand the Federal Government's resignation.

FITUR Claims To Mobilize 1.5 Million Protesters

LD1204185595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (INTERFAX)—More than one and a half million people had taken part in an all-Russia protest action as of 15:00 Moscow time on April 12, the headquarters of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITU) [FITUR] has said.

Methods of protest vary but demands are the same, such as the payment of delayed wages and measures to rule out mass unemployment.

In some regions the resignation of the government and early presidential election were called for.

In Samara, trade union marchers carried coffins of the defence industry and the agro-industrial complex.

Yakutia's air traffic enterprise delayed all flights by two hours, saying it was a solidarity action timed for the trade union protest day.

The territorial television studio in Khabarovsk suspended all broadcasts on the first and second channels, putting on the air only the main newscasts.

In Barnaul a rally by demonstrators carrying red banners was attended by about 1.5 thousand employees of industrial enterprises and agro-industrial complex of the Altai territory. Protesters said that the government deliberately produced a situation in which keeping up production was impossible. They called for the resignation of the president and government.

In Yakutsk (the capital of Yakutia) teachers' pickets and republican officials held talks. FITU says it was agreed that a city trade union conference of education workers on April would be briefed on measures taken to support teachers.

About the early results of the protest action the chief of FITU's analysis center Stanislav Kramarenko said that all labor staffs were more active in staging collective protest actions and put forward more serious demands than in the similar action on October 27 1994.

Kramarenko believes the demands for the government's resignation and for an early presidential election are not political ones, because they do not imply a replacement of the social system or a fundamental change of the political course.

Trade Union Official Interviewed

MK1204120795 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 1

[Interview with Mikhail Nagaytsev, chairman of the Moscow Trade Union Federation, by Yevgeniy Krasnikov and Valentin Morozov, on 11 April 1995, place not given, under the "Trade Unions" rubric: "Trade Unions Demand That Debts Be Paid and the Government Resign. An All-Russia Protest Action Is Being Held Today"—first four paragraphs are introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, the Federation of Independent Trade Unions of Russia (FITUR) is holding an all-Russia protest action. It is expected that—at the trade unions' call—meetings, demonstrations, and picketing of top administration buildings will be held in 74 regions of the Russian Federation. By the FITUR's decision, every regional trade union association itself was to choose the forms of its participation in the "Joint Collective Actions Day"—ranging from meetings in work collectives to one-day strikes. In Moscow, 5,000 people will picket the Russian Federation Government building; in St. Petersburg, 80,000 people are to rally in Palace Square; trade unions in Altay and Maritime krays plan to hold warning strikes.

The main reason for holding this all-Russia protest action is the government's failure to keep its promise to pay the arrears on wages. Since 27 October 1994, when the previous protest action was organized by trade unions, the amount of state arrears on wages, instead of being reduced, has increased by 1.4 trillion rubles, and, at present, it totals 5.6 trillion rubles. About 38,000 enterprises have failed to pay workers their earnings. (In Moscow, wages have not been paid for over a month at 155 enterprises). The situation at defense industry enterprises—where a backlog of state orders has not been paid for—is especially serious. No wonder, therefore, that the Association of Defense Industry Trade Unions is one of the protest action's principal organizers.

The distinctive feature of the present protest action is that, in the majority of Russia's regions, economic demands have been supplemented by political ones—resignation of the government and an early presidential election.

On the eve of the "Collective Actions Day," Mikhail Nagaytsev—chairman of the Moscow Trade Union Federation, one of the largest of FITUR's member organizations—gave an interview to NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA.

[Krasnikov, Morozov] What are the aims of this action?

[Nagaytsev] We demand that government pay its debts, and the Federal Assembly adopt the laws on wages and the minimum wage and ratify some conventions of the International Labor Organization. Wages, employment, and rule of law—such are the demands supported by the whole Russia. In addition, this action is a step in preparation for the election; our slogan, in this connection, is: "Hold the Elections at the Scheduled Time!" [as published]

[Krasnikov, Morozov] Your opponents say that trade unions are putting forward unrealistic demands, since the budget simply doesn't have enough money.

[Nagaytsev] Let us consider the moral and legal aspects: The state has ordered an enterprise to manufacture some products, has received and used them, but paid nothing. It follows that the government is bankrupt. It is the demands of the International Monetary Fund that a deficit-free budget be formulated that are unrealistic. Neither the United States nor Japan would venture to do this. And what is happening in reality? Inflation is being curbed ostentatiously, as long as possible, at the expense of nonpayment of wages, leading finally to a "black Tuesday." We need an honest and open economic policy.

[Krasnikov, Morozov] Was it difficult for former All-Union Central Trade Unions Council [AUCTUC] staffers to turn into organizers of protest actions?

[Nagaytsev] Life has forced us to. I mean both the FITUR chairman and his deputies—formerly members of those trade unions that had to stand up for the workers' rights in harsh conflicts with authorities five years ago. It was as early as during the time of Ryzhkov's government that we were preparing for a strike at the Moscow Metro construction enterprises [Metrostroy], but, two hours before the scheduled time, our demands were satisfied. In 1991, the Moscow City Executive Committee threatened to arrest us or to deport us from Moscow....

[Krasnikov, Morozov] What political parties participate in the present trade union action, in what form, and on what terms?

[Nagaytsev] We have been supported by the Russian Federation Communist Party [RF CP], the Agrarian Party, the Social-Democratic Union, and the Socialist Workers Party. The action, however, has been organized only by us. Those who wish to participate should play by our rules. For instance, the RF CP has accepted them. As for Anpilov—who has also been fishing for an invitation—we do not want to have anything in common with him because of his provocative actions.

[Krasnikov, Morozov] You said that this action is a part of the election campaign. Whom do you intend to support in the Duma election?

[Nagaytsev] The FITUR Executive Committee has decided to set up the "Russia's Trade Unions" electoral association. In general, election campaigns are not the trade unions' business, but at present there is no party on which we could rely. The RF CP has not determined its stance yet. I believe it is simply overestimating its strength. In addition, it is dominated by the stereotype of the past—self-perceiving its role as a leading and guiding force. In my opinion, the Russian Communist Party is not ready yet for a dialogue on equal terms.

[Krasnikov, Morozov] What do you think about the Social Democratic Union, since you are a member of its political committee?

[Nagaytsev] Social democrats state unambiguously that they intend to defend the trade unions' stance using political methods. For the time being, however, this organization is still weak, since it has just been born. For 70 years, the term "social democracy" has had an abusive connotation. In addition, those who have failed as liberals are trying to attach themselves to the social democrats now.

[Krasnikov, Morozov] Whom will you support in the presidential election?

[Nagaytsev] There is still no one on whom one could bank on at present. The piano is still in the bushes [as published].

Regions Hold Rallies in Support of Protest

LD1204223795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2043 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khabarovsk—A wave of rallies and manifestations swept regions along the Amur river in southeastern Siberia. Over 15,000 people gathered in a manifestation in Komsomolsk-on-Amur to express their protest against the social and economic policy followed by the present authorities. The rally in Khabarovsk, another major industrial centre in the region, drew crowds of construction and transport workers, power engineers and doctors, researchers and people of arts. Speakers at the rally demanded that unemployment and impoverishment of people be curbed. They protested against curtailed social programmes and decreasing living standards. Delayed wages and salaries in the region now exceed 180 bln roubles, with an unemployment rate of 20 per cent and tens of thousands of industrial workers forced into unpaid leaves.

Omsk—Some 60,000 residents of the city of Omsk in southwestern Siberia taking part in a regional protest meeting spoke in favour of a national political strike, immediate resignation of the government and early presidential elections. They adopted a resolution, urging the International Labour Organization to curb the deprivation of rights and cruel exploitation of Russian working people. They also called upon all Russians to demonstrate on May Day their solidarity and unity in the struggle for economic and political rights.

Kaliningrad—Nearly 5,000 people took part in a trade union action in Russia's most western city of Kaliningrad. Speakers demanded a resignation of the president and government, as well as of the local administration's senior officials. Their economic demands included repayment of the government's debt for state-placed defence orders and delayed wages. Some speakers called for more consistent free-market reforms, but the audience did not support them.

Government Session Discusses Trade Union Actions

LD1304083595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0812 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 13 TASS—A total of 450,000 people took part in a nationwide protest action, organised by the Russian Federation of Independent Trade Unions. This figure was cited at a session of the Russian Government today by Interior Minister Viktor Yerin. According to the Federation of Trade Unions, the number of participants was three times as many.

Yerin said that the most massive protest actions had taken place in St. Petersburg (about 60,000) and Omsk (35,000). The police managed, on the whole, to maintain order. However, some people were arrested in Ryazan, where the demonstrators tried to block the entrance to the regional Duma, in Tula, where the rally was not sanctioned, and in Moscow, where students taking part in the protest action violated public order.

Minister of Labour Gennadiy Melikyan said that the trade unions had solid reasons for discontent: The growth of wages was lagging behind the inflation rate during the past several months.

In the opinion of First Deputy Prime Minister Anatoliy Chubays, in the first quarter of 1995 the economic situation is showing signs of changing for the better. He promised that now, with the federal budget put into effect in April, the payment of the wage debt of the state will be done strictly in accordance with a schedule.

Fuel Ministry's Handling of Miners' Predicament Hit

MM1204150895 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 1

[Article by Lyudmila Biryukova: "White House Will Not Cough Up Until Thunder Starts Rumbling. Social Explosions Suppressed by Clearing Debts"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Maritime Kray miners have actively made their presence felt for the first time. Before this nobody paid any particular attention to them. The government has concentrated on the traditionally explosive areas of Vorkuta and Rostov. First Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays personally traveled to both coal regions and helped to unravel the tangle of nonpayments and to solve questions regarding the payment of wage arrears. Consequently a series of planned protest actions was averted.

But it is an awfully long way to Maritime Kray. It was only after miners weakened by a hunger strike had been hospitalized that a government commission headed by Fuel and Energy Minister Yuriy Shafranik and Yuriy Malyshev, general director of the "Rosugol" concern, arrived in Maritime Kray. Local power industry workers, who owe coal industry workers billions of rubles for fuel, are formally to blame for the miners strike. But the government is unlikely to be able to absolve itself of blame for exacerbating the situation in the region. Because the solution to the nonpayments problem is a task for the relevant government commission, which has been working for several years. Furthermore, both power industry workers and miners come under the same ministry headed by Shafranik. The threads from both conflicting sides meet in the Fuel and Energy Ministry. It must be borne in mind here that enterprises in these two subsectors, being joint-stock enterprises, are still under the wing of the state, which has the controlling block of shares. Thus the government can in no way shirk responsibility for what has happened.

Why is it only now, when thunder has started rumbling, that the center has "tossed" 50 billion rubles to Maritime Kray coal industry workers toward the repayment of power industry workers' debts? Could it not have been done sooner, without waiting for a social explosion? Especially as the Fuel and Energy Ministry is not the poorest ministry. It is in a position to create an emergency aid reserve for particular enterprises suffering a disaster through absolutely no fault of their own. Without waiting for protest actions, pickets, strikes, and hunger strikes.

Media Assesses Draft Economic Program for 1995-1997

95P50098

[FBIS Media Note] On March 24, Russian Federation Economy Minister Yevgeniy Yasin presented a program of economic reforms, entitled "On Draft Basic Provisions of a Concept for the Economic Development of the Russian Federation in 1995-1997," to an expanded meeting of the government, which subsequently approved it. This media note focuses on media reaction to the program.

Russian media started reporting on the draft program's provisions and implications even before its formal presentation. Yasin, in a 20 March INTERFAX report, explained that "effective investments" formed the cornerstone of the new reform program. "The stimulation of private investments is becoming the key task of the government," he said, adding that inflation had to be stopped for the "new economic climate" to become a reality. In an interview with ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova on the same day, Yasin cited statistics projecting a hoped-for slowdown of inflation to 1.2 percent a month in late 1995 and an overall annual level of 15-20 percent. Stating that investments were needed "to replace and renew production capacities and replenish circulating assets," Yasin emphasized the need to "secure the transformation of savings into investments."

Dmitriy Volkov also summed up the main points of the program in his 21 March SEGODNYA article. He wrote that "Yasin considers financial stabilization to be the first prerequisite for economic revival on the basis of effective investments," and added that Yasin had also mentioned "direct stimulation of effective investments on the part of the state." Volkov concluded on an optimisic note, stating that "the main thing... is to realize the priority of financial stability; judicial, not bandit-style methods of conflict resolution; and effective investments instead of indiscriminate handouts."

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI's 21 March issue carried a cautiously positive assessment of the program from Ivan Vladimirov, who said that "the government program... constitutes yet another chance for the full-fledged reform of the still underliberalized, inflationary and not very credit- worthy Russian economy." According to Vladimirov, "if all the government's plans and promises are kept, we can say that the new program will be a very effective tool of reform." He stated pointedly that "nobody apart from the current government has another program that would take into account existing realities and would not be blatantly politicized and populist." In Vladimirov's opinion, the danger to the program would come from "the populism and pro-inflation irresponsibility of certain influential politicians."

Criticism of the program was also voiced before the 24 March government session. ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI reporter Lyudmila Biryukova wrote on March 23 that "the draft fundamental guidelines... are already being attacked on all sides." She provided statements from three prominent academicians: Dmitriy Lvov, deputy director of the Central Economic- Mathematical Institute; Leonid Abalkin, director of the Economics Institute; and Aleksandr Tsapin, a State Duma deputy. Tsapin complained about the government proposed financing of target programs. He claimed budget would "be able to manage [financing] them." In contrast, Lvov stated that "it is quite impossible to tolerate," the state's "dissociating itself from helping production." Abalkin criticized the program because "[it] does not contain effective measures to encourage business and entrepreneurial activity."

Assessments of the program and the government meeting which discussed it continued to vary widely. Vyacheslav Goncharov, reporting in the 24 March issue of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, was upbeat and hopeful. He attributed the same emotions to the meeting's participants and praised the "reformers' faith in their chosen course, their truly revolutionary drive, despite all the criticism from left and right." Goncharov predicted that even the man on the street could be optimistic because adoption of the program meant that an end to the crisis was in sight. "Today what they will be discussing in the Kremlin," Goncharov concluded, "[is] how and when really stable and effective 'rules of the game' common to all the elements of the market economy are going to be devised which will finally awaken Russians' initiative and enterprise." Natalya Alina expressed a similar hope in a short item in the 24 March ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI: "Today's program promises one thing: we will live according to our means, but if we fulfill what we intend, we will get out of the crisis and proceed further. To a worthy life."

Alina's article was followed by a piece written by Nikita Vaynonen, which was extremely skeptical of the new program. According to him, the "man in the street" would "laugh in your face" if asked whether Yasin's proposal for ending enterprise subsidies was more correct than Abalkin's statement that the state had already completely ceased financing the economy. Vaynonen pointed out that, despite all the protestations by its authors that the program was not secret, a copy of it could not by found for sale. [The draft program was later published in DELOVOY MIR No 12, 27 Mar-2 Apr] "Relying on their programs as some kind of secret weapon," Vayonen concluded, "the democrats risk losing December-95 just as they completely threw it away in December-93."

TRUD columnist Vitaliy Golovachev was also skeptical about the program's possibilities for success. In a 25 March article he criticized the report as based on overly optimistic forecasts: "There is no certainty that investments will be forthcoming... but the government counts on these alone. . .The circulated program maintains that inflation will not exceed 6-8 percent in March. But it is already clear today that it will be at least 9-10 percent. The forecasts did not come true last year and are not coming true this year either." Not only were the predictions wrong, Golovachev states, "but unfortunately there was no thorough analysis of many urgent problems at the 'enlarged session'."

The enlarged session was also the target of Yuriy Bagrov's satirical article in the 25 March issue of KOMMERSANT-DAILY. He noted that "yesterday's government session will certainly go down in history for its boredom," pointing out that at the session, like many Soviet era party plenums, there were no "clashing opinions." Bagrov claimed that the entire session was stage-managed, Chernomyrdin's speech was "sterile" and concluded by noting sardonically that "naturally, after this the three-year program was unanimously approved by the participants."

On March 28, ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA published a draft decree on the three-year program which also was adopted at the 24 March session. It stipulated that federal and regional executive organs should undertake to secure production stabilization, strengthen law and order, improve conditions for developing enterprise and business activity, "galvanize" the economy's restructuring, and ensure a rise in the people's living standards. The decree called for reports, draft programs, proposals and other documents to be submitted on specific dates throughout the year on various aspects of the program. Yasin wrote a sort of "companion piece" to the draft decree in the 28 March issue of ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI. He provided some more detail and stressed once again that "the state's contribution to this process is to create the necessary investment climate, thereby facilitating the process which has begun." "When characterizing the program in general terms it may be said that it is cautiously optimistic and based on what can be achieved given reasonably favorable conditions," he concluded. "In any event, the government will do everything within its power to see the program through to a favorable conclusion."

International Affairs

Udovenko Meets Strobe Talbott; Discusses NATO, Crimea Issues

LD1204195795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 12 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Ukrainian Foreign minister Hennady Udovenko has requested U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott to boost the discussion of U.S.-Ukrainian agreements, including the one on mutual protection of investments, at the U.S. Congress.

The meeting with Talbott was held in Kiev on Monday for almost three hours, Udovenko told a briefing at the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday. The sides discussed expansion of NATO, Ukrainian-NATO interaction within the Partnership for Peace program, the Ukrainian visit of U.S. President Bill Clinton scheduled for May 11 and the Crimean issue.

In the words of the minister, Americans "are not offering help" in solving the Crimean issue. "In fact, we do not need any international assistance in this respect," he stressed. At the same time, Udovenko noted increased attention of the international community to the Crimean problem.

Commenting on the Moscow visit of Crimean Parliament Speaker Sergey Tsekov which began on Tuesday, the foreign minister noted "I would rather see him here (Kiev - Interfax), because this is the issue of Ukraine."

Udovenko criticized the Council of Europe, which "is dragging out" a decision on Ukrainian membership in this organization. "We requested the Council for membership over a year ago," said the minister.

In his opinion, "membership in the Council of Europe will be a sign of Ukrainian democratic development and help settle plenty of problems, including those of measures against the mob. The latter does not recognize any borders."

Udovenko hopes that the admission process will be accelerated after the republican parliament adopts the law on power. "We do not want to be the last state admitted to the Council of Europe," said Udovenko.

Strobe Talbott's News Conference in Kiev Reported

MK1204112795 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Viktor Zamyatin: "Preparation for Bill Clinton's Visit. Strobe Talbott's Mission to CIS: 'Let There Be Light!'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bill Clinton is being awaited both in Moscow and Kiev. He will take part in the observances of the 50th anniversary of the Victory, then meet with Boris Yeltsin, following which he will set off to be Leonid Kuchma's guest. During the consultations which Strobe Talbot, U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, held in Moscow on 6 through 9 April, preparations for the summit were already in full swing. Now it is known that the presidents will concentrate on problems of stability in Europe and nuclear arms non-proliferation, including coordination of their actions at the NPT extension conference opening in New York in April. They will also talk about the upcoming G-7 meeting in Halifax where the leaders of the great powers also expect Boris Yeltsin. The sides prefer at this point not to dwell on the details. Though in Kiev, where Mr. Talbot proceeded after discussions with his Russian opposite numbers, he shed light on some curious details.

Giving his impressions of the meetings with Ukrainian leaders at his concluding press conference in Kiev, Talbot stunned the journalists with his knowledge of post-Soviet realities. He also showed off his Russian: For example, when the lights went out in the auditorium, the diplomat exclaimed: "Da budet svet!" [Let there be light]. The gist of his negotiations in Kiev was: The United States is interested in an independent, stable, and secure Ukraine, it will be provided with aid, and Washington's policy toward Kiev is now fashioned independently from its policy toward Moscow.

Kuchma heard praise from the diplomat himself and from his American counterpart Clinton for his "politically bold steps" to reform the economy. The U.S. President, Talbot declared, has always been an optimist in regard to a bright future for Ukraine, and he is now being confirmed in this view. The United States will support Kuchma in his undertakings. Because Ukraine, as Washington sees it, occupies by virtue of its location and "human potential" a "key position for European security and stability." And, once it becomes stronger—soon—it will in earnest influence European processes.

In Talbot's words, Ukraine could very well serve as a model for the other states, among which he cited Russia (the diplomat made it clearly understood that "it will benefit everybody" if Moscow continues along the course of reform despite the "obvious difficulties of the last few months.") For the time being, in the words of the White House spokesman, it is Ukraine which is following the right road, including its parliament which finally passed the state budget last Thursday. The deputy secretary of state did not fail to recall that it was the United States that pressured the IMF, when it began to waver, to provide Ukraine with a stand-by credit right after the budget was passed. Washington's other words of support for Kiev will also be matched by action in all likelihood.

As for the main subjects of the Clinton-Kuchma meeting, they almost completely coincide with those singled out for the Clinton-Yeltsin meeting: the problems of security in Europe, and, first and foremost, NATO expansion, which so upsets Moscow. In the meantime, Talbot brought home to his Kiev interlocutors Washington's point of view: The expansion of NATO, like that of the West European Union and the European Union, is inevitable. But it should move "gradually and in an evolutionary manner" so as in the final analysis to help the process of European integration rather than to divide Europe. The process of integration is already under way in Europe, and Ukraine, the United States thinks, is taking an active part in it although for some reason it, too, is concerned about NATO's expansion.

There was yet another curious detail in what Talbot had to say: He did not find it strange at all that the question of the United States' role in Russian-Ukrainian relations was raised. On the contrary, he predicted that this subject would most surely come up in Clinton's discussions with Yeltsin and Kuchma. However, Talbot did not respond directly to a question on whether the United States intends to broker the division of the Black Sea Fleet, as it did during the negotiations with Kiev on the republic's nuclear disarmament. He only mentioned in passing that Sevastopol, as well as Crimea, is an inalienable part of Ukraine.

Minister on Need for Gradual Approach to NATO

LD1204180495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1345 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 12 (INTERFAX-Ukraine)—Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov has warned against rushing the country's entry into NATO to avert new imbalances and confrontation in Europe.

At a joint news conference with his Dutch counterpart Joris Jacob Clemens Voorguve in Kiev Wednesday, the minister called for gradualism in entering European political structures and for participation in the Partnership for Peace program.

Shmarov stressed his country was in pursuit of neutrality both in the East and West, a position which, he said, is unlikely to have any political implications for Kiev.

For his part, Voorguve called for Kiev's greater involvement in the Partnership plan though warned against overestimating its political significance.

He said "our increased cooperation is not spearheaded against any one state".

Shmarov Against Ukraine's Quick Admission to NATO

LD1204194695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1534 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 12 (Interfax)—Quick admission of Ukraine to NATO would be "a hasty step disturbing the European balance of power, resulting in a new confrontation," believes Ukrainian vice-premier and minister of defence Valeriy Shmarov.

"One should join European political associations in a smoother buffering way by integration and participation in the Partnership for Peace program," the minister told a news conference in Kiev today.

In the words of Shmarov, Ukraine "abides by its doctrine of non-bloc state both in the East and the West."

Speaking of the division of the Black Sea fleet, Shmarov expressed the hope Ukraine and Russia will settle it "justly and peacefully."

At the same time, solution to this problem does not exclude "an appeal to the international public. Such forms of negotiations have taken place in the world, including our state," said Shmarov.

"The work to divide the Black Sea fleet has been constructively done at the state level. Verbal attacks of some individuals do not reflect the real relations between the two states' leaders despite their political coloring," said the minister.

Deputy Speaker Meets French Defense Experts

LD0704200095 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Activities of the Supreme Council of Ukraine Commissions for Legal and Defense Issues were given attention at a meeting between Supreme Council Deputy Speaker Oleh Dyomin and representatives of the Institute of National Defense Studies in France. The guests were interested to know more about the relations between the parliamentary and presidential structures, and about the possibility of cooperation between our countries in the field of national security.

Summing up the meeting in an interview with a UKRINFORM correspondent, Oleh Dyomin emphasized: This is a very interesting institute at which representatives of completely different organizations of the legislative and executive powers gathered under the roof of a single research center to study national problems. This is something we cannot create because of our problems that are much more acute than in France. Therefore, it will be useful for us to adopt the French experience and try to use it here.

Coordinated actions are very important for us today. Also useful will be personal contacts between people's deputies of Ukraine and members of the French delegation, which includes top-notch specialists in their respective fields. Similar work can be organized in Ukraine already now within the framework of the Supreme Council commissions and the existing scientific and research institutions, such as, for example, as the Institute of Sociological Research and other institutions dealing in national security issues.

Military Cooperation Memorandum Signed With Netherlands

LD1204162095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0840 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—On 12 April Valeriy Shmarov and Joris Voorhoeve, the defense ministers of Ukraine and the Netherlands, signed a memorandum on mutual understanding between their Defense Ministries.

At a joint news conference, summing up the results of Joris Voorhoeve's visit to Ukraine, the Dutch minister noted that the Netherlands intends to develop cooperation with Ukraine, both in the military and economic spheres. He underscored that $40 million is being allocated by the Netherlands for Ukraine's economic support program, and that this figure could be increased. According to Joris Voorhoeve, the Netherlands intends to demand that financial aid to Ukraine be stepped up within the European Union, of which the Netherlands is a member.

Valeriy Shmarov said that the Dutch and Ukrainian armies will cooperate closer within the framework of the "Partnership for Peace" program and in UN peacekeeping operations to maintain peace in areas of military conflicts.

Moscow To Provide Premises for Some Ukrainian Embassies

LD1204164795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0940 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The mutual recognition of rights and the regulation of ownership relations is being conducted on the basis of respective agreements signed by the government of Ukraine with Russia and Belarus and ratified by the Supreme Council. Vitaliy Kovtyukh, the director of the State Property Management Department [name and title as received], said this at a State Property Fund briefing on 11 April.

He noted that, in accordance with an agreement between Ukraine and Russia, Ukraine will receive premises for embassies in Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Egypt, Mongolia, and China, and in the following year—premises in another 43 countries. However, in his words, Russia's demands were not always acceptable to Ukraine. In particular, this related to proposals to pay off the debts for gas and petroleum products supplies with property.

Kovtyukh said that preparations were currently underway to sign similar law binding documents with Georgia. Such an agreement has been signed but not yet ratified with Moldova. According to Kovtyukh, the main reason for this was the absence of a border treaty between Ukraine and Moldova, and uncertainty over the demarcation line.

The director of the State Property Management Department noted that a draft Cabinet of Minister's resolution "On transferring property in general state ownership to the ownership of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" will soon be approved. For the moment, the commission was continuing to work on delimiting the assets belonging to the health resort complex.

Russia Accused of Not Transferring Embassy Properties

WS1304101595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0147 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 11. Russia is failing to live up to its promise to provide sites for Ukrainian embassies in 42 countries, Vitaliy Kovtiukh, who manages the State Property Department of the State Property Fund, said Tuesday.

Although Russia has agreed to transfer buildings for embassies in Egypt, China, Mongolia, Romania, Bulgaria and Poland in the next two years to Ukraine, Russia is impeding this process, Kovtiukh said. For example, the Ukrainian Embassy in Poland still rents premises in a building of the Russian Trade Representative Office in Warsaw, he said.

"The estimated cost of the former USSR's property is about US$500 billion," he said. "Having become a legal successor to the former USSR's assets, Russia actually became an owner of this property and is not going to share it with other republics of the former USSR."

Russian Deputy Had 'Personal' Reasons for Ripping Flag

LD1204170995 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kharkov, 11 April—While the two Ukrainian deputies had purely ideological motives for ripping up the Russian flag, the Russian deputy who insulted Ukraine had personal reasons to do so, one of the leaders of the Civic Congress of Ukraine, parliament deputy Volodymyr Alekseyev, told UNIAR. He was referring to recent incidents in the Russian and Ukrainian parliaments where State Duma deputy Nikolay Lysenko and Supreme Council members Oleh Vitovych and Yuriy Tyma reciprocally insulted the national flags of Ukraine and Russia.

According to Alekseyev, Nikolay Lysenko became persona non-grata in Ukraine long before ripping up the Ukrainian flag. Shortly before the incident, he was refused entry to visit Chernigov Region, where the Russian deputy's parents live and his grandmother is buried. "This does not justify Lysenko's actions but one can understand what made him do it," Alekseyev said.

He added that now Vitovych and Tyma will be probably banned from Russia and will not be able to travel freely as before to Chechnya which is part of the Russian Federation.

Use of 'Ukrainian Card' in Russian Elections

WS1204145995 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 4

[Article by Oleh Medvedyev: "'Ukrainian Card' Has Become Trump Card in Russia's Electoral Race"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 6 April, the Russian Duma Committee for CIS Issues heard a report by Konstantin Zatulin on the results of his visit to Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet. Mr. Zatulin personally banned a KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI reporter from the session, which runs counter to Duma regulations, which stipulate free access to parliamentary committee sessions. Mr. Zatulin did not justify his actions. Perhaps, he has developed an allergy to everything related to Kiev or perhaps, that was an act of vengeance for the inhospitable reception he was given by Ukrainian authorities in Crimea.

Konstantin Zatulin was assisted by Deputy Nikolay Lysenko, who undertook to clarify the regulations. Lysenko is the man who tore up the Ukrainian flag the day before, during a plenary session of the Duma. Deputy Lysenko—elected in St. Petersburg—(do not mistake him for Vladimir Lysenko!) is the only representative of the National-Republican Party of Russia in the Duma. His party is an extremist nationalist one and does not have many members. Among its possible political allies are: Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party of Russia, Baburin's Russian National Union, Rogozin's Congress of Russian Societies, and, perhaps, Aleksandr Rutskoy.

The State Duma issued a one-month ban on Nikolay Lysenko's public appearances. It remains a mystery what was the actual reason behind that decision: Did the deputies really find it unethical to desecrate a neighboring state's flag, or did they become infuriated by Lysenko's insults. The point is that a couple of minutes before tearing up the flag, Lysenko referred to all the lawmakers as "fools."

On the same day, the Duma—following Zhirinovskiy's motion—discussed the Crimean issue and resolved to invite a Crimean delegation, led by [Supreme Soviet Chairman] Tsekov, to a Duma session.

Boris Yeltsin's stance on the problem is to be clarified in the immediate future. Reporters asked the Russian president, who was going to Riazan and the Caucasus at the end of March, about his attitude toward the events in Crimea. "I am thinking about it," answered the president. The process of meditation seems to be nearing completion. Russian Presidential Spokesman Sergey Medvedev said in an exclusive interview with IZVESTIYA on 6 April that "the head of state is upset by the events in Russia and outside its borders, where there are attempts to infringe upon the interests of Russophones. In particular, he is carefully observing the developments in Crimea and examining the balance of political forces on the peninsula. He has been presented with legal and other assessments of the decisions made by the Ukrainian authorities with regard to the Crimean autonomy. Boris Yeltsin is going to express his opinion of the situation in Crimea within the next couple of days." IZVESTIYA, referring to a "source in the Kremlin," reported that "chances for the president's visit to Kiev in mid- April are extremely small."

Certain passages in Mr. Medvedev's statement—for instance, those about the infringement upon the Russians' rights—give grounds to believe that Boris Yeltsin does not regard Crimea as Ukraine's domestic affair. It is worth pointing out that in recent weeks, when Oleg Soskovets was the subject of furious attacks and mudslinging for the progress achieved at the negotiations with Ukraine, neither Yeltsin nor Chernomyrdin uttered a single word to protect the head of the Russian delegation. This, too, explains certain things.

As became known on Wednesday, the Duma's initiative group had collected around 100 signatures in favor of including the issue of no confidence in the government on the agenda of the session. In line with Duma regulations, 90 signatures are required to do this. Konstantin Zatulin, who was the chief initiator of the collection of signatures, said at one of his recent briefings that there were two reasons to demand that a no-confidence vote in the government be held. The first one is the "unprincipled behavior of the Russian delegation led by Oleg Soskovets at the negotiations with Ukraine, which resulted in a loss of popular trust in the government's ability to protect Russia's national interests." The second reason is elementary disregard of the Duma by the president and the government, which was expressed by the lack of reaction toward repeated demands to dismiss Interior Minister Yerin, as well as the Federation Council's repeated failures to approve the candidate for general attorney.

It would be erroneous to believe that the lawmakers' antigovernment sentiments are solely the result of Zatulin's efforts. Those sentiments are a simple reaction of certain State Duma deputies toward their own political impotence and a strong desire to demonstrate that they are capable of doing something. As far as Zatulin's collection of signatures in favor of the government's resignation are concerned, this should be explained by the upcoming election campaign, rather than his antigovernment standpoint. Konstantin Zatulin became quite popular over recent weeks and has won the image of an ardent protector of compatriots betrayed by Soskovets. This is a very gratifying issue, indeed, and Zatulin will undoubtedly reap great dividends.

The "Ukrainian card" has become both a trick used in the electoral contest and an instrument for sorting things out between financial-political groupings. Last Sunday, "Itogi" ["Conclusions"] moderator Yevgeniy Kiselev all but rubbed his hands in satisfaction and predicted a close end to Soskovets's political career. This opinion—not completely groundless—was expressed several times for the audience to remember. It could be regarded as a product of Mr. Kiselev's analytical thinking, had it not been for the following things. First, the "Itogi" show is NTV's ["Independent Television"] main program. Second, NTV belongs to the "Most" ["Bridge"] group. Third, Mr. Gusinskiy is the chief of "Most," and fourth, Mr. Gusinskiy "loves" Soskovets so much that he would gladly shed a tear at his political funeral. Viktor Chernomyrdin would probably be happy to attend the same ceremony, for he felt many times—not without the president's kind consent—Soskovets's hot breath on the back of his neck.

If such methods of settling political accounts become generally accepted and Boris Yeltsin does not provide an appropriate statesmanlike explanation of Russia's standpoint on the Crimean issue, we should expect a further exacerbation of Russian-Ukrainian relations.

Russian Leadership's Stance on Crimean Developments

WS1204135695 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 7 Apr 95 p 3

[Commentary by Serhiy Nesterenko: "The Kremlin's Hand Became Tired in Crimea. Why Did 'Yeltsin's Team' Not Support Separatists?"—first paragraph published in box]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow's reaction to a number of fundamental measures taken by Kiev with regard to Crimea has been surprisingly restrained. It is no secret that support from Russia served as the main trump card for Crimean separatists in their game with the Ukrainian leadership. The statement by Oleg Soskovets, first deputy prime minister of the Russian Federation, that "the developments in Crimea are Ukraine's internal affair" shocked and confused anti-Ukrainian circles in Simferopol. As a matter of fact, they have been supported by individual State Duma deputies. This can hardly be considered real assistance: In fact, the executive branch rules in Russia. And it has rushed to dissociate itself from the Crimean separatists, thus stunning many political experts. Why did it happen this way?

The answer to this question primarily lies in the psychological differences among representatives of the Russian leadership, which are determined by their role in the country's political life. The presidential team has blocked State Duma deputies from the levers of power. It has left them only the tactics of improving their ratings by shaking the public with noisy political statements, which, as a rule, are not followed by actions. Emotions have become the psychological foundation for their actions. Pragmatists, such as Oleg Soskovets, dominate among the representatives of the executive branch, who are able to soberly assess what Russia could win or lose by defending the Crimean leadership.

Until recently, Russia was supporting separatist trends in Crimea, perhaps, for only one purpose: Anti-Ukrainian moods on the peninsula were a perfect tool to exert pressure on our state. When Kiev made a decision virtually downgrading the authority of the Crimean leadership, Russia ended up facing the following option: Either to categorically resolve the Crimean issue and incorporate the autonomous republic into the Russian Federation, or put up with the loss of a great deal of its influence on the peninsula.

Did Russia really want to annex the autonomous republic? It hardly wanted to do so, since it would have inherited an unenviable legacy. It is less expensive to give up Crimea than to feed it. The peninsula's economy is in a shambles, moreover, as a matter of fact, it is fully maintained by Kiev, and at the same brings substantial losses. Crimea receives from Ukraine 75 percent of its industrial production, 85 percent of its electricity, over 50 percent of its gas, as well as oil, timber, metals, and a lion's share of foodstuffs. By taking Crimea under its wing, Russia would have inflicted a powerful blow against its own economy, already exhausted by the war in Chechnya. Additionally, the peninsula would have become a harbor for the international mafia, and the Russian Internal Affairs Ministry would hardly have been delighted with the prospect of restoring order on one of the most crime-ridden territories of the entire CIS.

Moreover, if Russia had begun an open battle for Crimea, this would immediately have damaged its image in the eyes of the world community, with all the consequences. The West has repeatedly let it be known that it categorically opposes redrawing borders, and that it considers Crimea and its problems as Ukraine's internal affair. If Russia's war against one of its own republics prompted a number of protests and demands to revise the West's policy toward the Russian Federation, what would have been the reaction to an attempt to capture Crimea. It is very likely that, in case of the Russian Federation's military expansion on the peninsula, NATO, which is not interested in strengthening Moscow's influence in the Black Sea region, would have interfered in the affair. That is to say that a Russian incursion into Crimea could have led to a new world war, and the Russian Federation has marginal chances of winning it. U.S. political expert Jan Brzezinski's comment, cited in the ARGUMENTY I FAKTY newspaper, is very interesting in this regard: "Crimea is a litmus test, which will show the world community whether Russia is still an aggressive country aimed at expansion, or if it has already become a normal member of the world community."

So, pragmatism has currently prevailed within the Russian leadership. It would be naive to presume, however, that, having publicly dissociated itself from Crimea, the Kremlin will actually do so. Too much is at stake in this game: It is extremely important for Russia to maintain its military-political influence in the Black Sea region. There is a characteristic detail. Neither Yeltsin nor Chernomyrdin have reacted to the current developments in Crimea. The Russian Federation's stance was presented only by Oleg Soskovets. This means that, by sending him into retirement, the Russian leadership can easily change its opinion.

Therefore, being currently unable to fight for Crimea, the Russian Federation's ruling elite has reserved for itself the possibility of maneuvering in the future. The Crimean problem will most likely ebb from the diplomatic area into the area of special services' operations (by the way, the Russian Federation Defense Ministry Main Intelligence Directorate is continuing to operate legally in Crimea). The Kremlin will hardly want to take its hand off the peninsula's political pulse. It will most likely attempt to install people loyal to Moscow in a new leadership of the autonomous republic, and will encourage pro-Russian sentiments among the Crimeans. This means that not all the i's have been dotted and not all the t's have been crossed in the Crimean problem. Nevertheless, one can firmly state one thing: The Ukrainian leadership successfully used a correct moment to secure its influence in Crimea. And it now has enough time to strengthen it.

Crimean Speaker Interrupts Visit, Returns to Kiev

LD1204180895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1447 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—After meeting Russian Lower Chamber Speaker Ivan Rybkin, head of the Crimean Parliament Serhiy Tsekov flew for Kiev on Wednesday for consultations with the Ukrainian parliament over the relations between Ukraine and the peninsula.

Deputy chairman of the Russian Lower Chamber, State Duma, Gennadiy Seleznev accompanied Tsekov on his trip, a Duma spokesman told ITAR-TASS.

Tsekov is expected to return to Moscow later on Wednesday. He is scheduled to meet officials of the Russian Foreign Ministry and other federal departments next Thursday and speak at a Duma meeting and hold a press-conference next Friday.

Crimean Speaker, Russian Duma Official Meet Moroz in Kiev

LD1204190795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1750 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—UNIAN has learnt from well-informed sources close to the Supreme Council leadership that Chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea Serhiy Tsekov and Deputy Chairman of Russia's State Duma Gennadiy Seleznev had a meeting with Chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council Oleksandr Moroz. They discussed the situation in Crimea and the latest decisions taken by the legislative and executive powers of Ukraine. After the meeting, at approximately 1700 GMT, Serhiy Tsekov and Gennadiy Seleznev left for Moscow by air.

Kiev May Appeal to World Community on Black Sea Fleet

LD1204122795 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0840 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—If negotiations between Russia and Ukraine on the Black Sea Fleet remain at an impasse, then we will probably have to appeal to the world community, Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime minister and defense minister, said in reply to a question from UNIAN on the possibility of attracting a third country as a mediator in resolving this dispute. He said that at the state level the sides are displaying a willingness to resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet and had rejected "some politically motivated attacks on the part of certain persons." "There is a hope that we will be able to find the best decision on the issue of dividing the Black Sea Fleet," Valeriy Shmarov said.

Dutch Defense Minister Joris Voorhoeve, who is in Ukraine on an official visit, told UNIAN: "We hope that the problem between Kiev and Moscow on the Black Sea Fleet will be resolved in a peaceful and just manner." He also noted that there are many international organizations and countries that would like to help in resolving this problem.

The next round of Russian-Ukrainian talks on the Black Sea Fleet began in Moscow on 12 April. Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Bizhan is representing Ukraine at the talks.

Shmarov: Outside Arbitration Possible on Black Sea Fleet

LD1204153195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1117 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 12 (INTERFAX - UKRAINE)—Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov does not rule out the possibility of the participation of a third party in the Ukrainian-Russian negotiations on the Black Sea Fleet division.

At a joint conference with Netherlands' Defense Minister Joris Clemens Voorhoeve in Kiev Wednesday Shmarov expressed hope that Ukraine and Russia "will justly and, of course, peacefully, resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet division."

However, if this process is delayed, he believes that it will be necessary to address the world community.

"Such forms of negotiations have taken place in the world, in our history as well," he underlined.

Shmarov pointed out that "until now the work on the Black Sea Fleet division is going on constructively at the state level." "Separate attacks of separate people, though they have a political overtone, do not reflect real relations between leaderships of two states," he believes.

In the course of the press conference Joris Clemens Voorhoeve confirmed the fact that the Black Sea Fleet problem is "Ukraine's and Russia's affair." However, he noted that "if two parties deem it useful to involve a third party, a mediator, they will find a lot of these wishing to help."

SBU Chief on Service's Role, Nuclear Issues

MM1104105295 Gdansk GLOS WYBRZEZA in Polish 3 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Valeriy Malikov, chairman of the Ukrainian Security Service, by correspondents Liliana Kalita and Henryk Piec; place and date not given; interview is followed by a commentary by unidentified "former State Security Office employee"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [GLOS WYBRZEZA] Looking back over the past few years, has the Ukrainian Security Service [SBU] noted any increase in the activity of foreign special services, none of which had previously shown much interest in Ukraine?

[Malikov] We have indeed noted an increase in activities of the special services—not only European but also from outside Europe. I believe that this is a perfectly normal phenomenon. Suddenly, a new, independent state entity has emerged here, with 52 million citizens. This fact could not fail to attract the interest of the world community, including foreign intelligence services.

[GLOS WYBRZEZA] Dozens of diplomatic missions, industrial enterprises, and companies, whose operations serve as cover for the activity of foreign intelligence services, have been established in Kiev. In your opinion, which country's intelligence service has been particularly active in Ukraine?

[Malikov] It is true that foreign intelligence operations have been set up under the shelter of diplomatic posts. We are familiar with many of these, we monitor their activities, and, if necessary, we forestall these activities. The intelligence services provide their respective governments with analytically processed results of their penetration. They are interested in economic and political issues, as well as our country's economic potential. Intelligence services pay close attention to the orientation of political leaders and government figures and circles, the condition of the economy, and the development of the defense industry's infrastructure....

[GLOS WYBRZEZA] Are you familiar with the content of the information passed on to foreign governments by their intelligence rings active on Ukrainian territory?

[Malikov] First, foreign governments receive warnings about the possibility of Ukraine's territorial integrity becoming destabilized, which could in turn affect the security of the eastern European region as a whole. Foreign intelligence agents watch very closely the state's internal political processes, the progress of economic reforms, and our foreign policy line. Certain intelligence services are interested in our accomplishments in the field of science and technology. They attempt to set up organized "smuggling" of highly qualified experts from Ukraine to their own countries.

[GLOS WYBRZEZA] The KGB of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic [SSR] was dissolved in September 1991, and a new service was established on its foundations. You are currently head of this new intelligence service. A new name, and new tasks.... What about the personnel?

[Malikov] In creating the SBU we tried to preserve the intellectual and professional potential of the subdivisions of the former KGB of the Ukrainian SSR. While maintaining the principle of cadre renovation, we tried to uphold a certain logic and consistency in the recruitment of new personnel. In my opinion, we have managed to avoid a number of the mistakes that our neighbors from the former socialist camp have made, having eliminated their security bodies to the point where it is still very difficult to rebuild them today.

[GLOS WYBRZEZA] In the past years much blame has been laid at the door of the state security officials of the postwar generation. Which elements from the past do you reject unconditionally?

[Malikov] It was a good thing that we did not follow the path of total rejection of the past. We did not reject the positive experience acquired by the former KGB, whose achievements go beyond just persecution and repression. The scope of the special services' activities is now defined by legislation, not by party and government decrees.

[GLOS WYBRZEZA] One line of activity pursued by the SBU is economic intelligence and counterintelligence, is it not?

[Malikov] Nowadays this is one of the highest priorities. Suffice it to say that the data we have collected have been instrumental in leading to the signing of commercial agreements—to the total sum of $250 million—by more than 100 enterprises and sectors. We have also succeeded in preventing the signing of 110 financially disadvantageous agreements, thus saving $897 million as well as 7.1 billion karbovantsi.

[GLOS WYBRZEZA] How do you assess the state of the safety provisions of the nuclear power generating plant in Ukraine?

[Malikov] Nuclear terrorism is, unfortunately, quite real today. Attacks against atomic energy facilities in the United States have been recorded already. The latest such incident took place in February last year at the Three Mile Island nuclear power station. Even earlier than that, there were foiled attempts to sabotage the operation of a nuclear power station in France.

[GLOS WYBRZEZA] Could similar acts of terrorism take place at Ukrainian power stations?

[Malikov] Naturally, we cannot exclude that possibility. In the years 1991-94 in the CIS countries, including Ukraine, certain right-wing nationalist groups threatened to blow up nuclear power stations. We are doing everything in our power to render such a threat impossible.

[GLOS WYBRZEZA] What is the current situation regarding the "seepage" of nuclear substances through our border?

[Malikov] In recent years a number of radioactive substances and materials traceable back to CIS countries surfaced in West European markets. The evidence points also to Ukraine. Working in conjunction with the special services of the neighboring countries, we have intercepted several attempts at smuggling materials of this kind across our borders. [interview ends]

We asked a former State Security Office employee to give us his analysis of the interview with the SBU chief. This is what the officer in question told GLOS WYBRZEZA: "It is without any doubt true that the SBU has for several years now noted an increase in the activities of foreign special services. The reason for this should be attributed, among other things, to the opening up of Ukrainian borders, which resulted in easier access to its citizens and sources of information. In addition, several of Ukraine's neighbor states, including Poland, have regained their independence. These states had been controlled, monitored, and penetrated by the KGB for the preceding 40 years. Information traveled across their borders only in one direction. At present it seems a natural thing that these states are keen to catch up in that area, and that is inevitably tied in with increase in intelligence activities. On the other hand, the SBU will at all costs attempt to preserve the present intelligence network inherited from the KGB. Mr. Malikov maintains that the Ukrainian special services have kept their intellectual and professional potential. This is not something particularly attributable to Ukraine. I do not know which states Mr. Malikov was thinking of when he talked about mistakes made by the neighbors who even today are still incapable of rebuilding their intelligence apparatus. Perhaps the SBU head was thinking about the Baltic states, but it not at all surprising that these states decided to get rid altogether of organizations which were decidedly hostile to them. It is most certain that Poland is not one of the countries in question. Here also we have preserved the potential mentioned by the SBU chief. For example, in Gdansk only 8 percent of former Security Service officers were subjected to a vetting procedure. I am actually not convinced that that potential should have been preserved to such an extent. The SBU touched on a most important question: that of the smuggling of radioactive materials. By virtue of its geographical position, Poland constitutes a natural transit corridor along the East-West route. Who knows what quantities of fissionable material have been smuggled across our territory to date?

"We certainly will never find that out. Nevertheless, we must do everything in our power to make our eastern border less permeable. To this end, we need relevant agreements and cooperation in the work of our respective special services."

National Affairs

Parliament Approves Name, Three Articles of Law on Power

LD1204185095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1750 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The Supreme Council of Ukraine, considering the law of Ukraine "On state power and local self-government" in its second reading at its evening session today, approved by the majority of votes the name of the law and three first articles of Section 1—"General Provisions." Altogether 100 out of almost 1,000 proposals submitted by deputies were considered.

The proposal to name the law "constitutional" was rejected. Articles 1-3 contain a definition of Ukraine as "a democratic social-oriented and law-governed state," a provision stipulating that "the people is the only source of power" and provide for the delimitation of legislative, executive, and judicial powers.

At the morning session on 13 April, the Supreme Council will continue the debate on the draft law.

Moroz Says Law on Power, Self-Government 80% Ready

LD1204203995 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz has disproved the opinion that there is a crisis in relations between parliament and the president. "There is a procedure of discussing a draft law, and the current crisis has to do with this process and not with relations between parliament and the president," Mr. Moroz believes. In the opinion of Oleksandr Moroz, nothing terrible happened today in the Supreme Council: "A group of deputies rushed to the rostrum, so what? A deputy spoke his mind at the wrong time, so what?" However, the thing is that somebody was probably counting on this course of events, the Supreme Council chairman remarked.

Oleksandr Moroz said there is every chance that the draft law "on power and local self-government in Ukraine" will be further discussed in parliament instead of being approved by means of a referendum. However, it is necessary to get rid of the idea that the corps of deputies has no right to amend the submitted draft laws.

"A question arises: What is the Supreme Council needed for if it cannot correct legislative texts," the chairman of the Supreme Council inquired. Oleksandr Moroz pointed out that as many as 80 percent of the draft law's articles are ready for approval now by the constitutional majority. The law can be passed within one month, Mr.

Moroz believes, however, on condition that agreement is achieved on all the disputable articles.

Minister Sums Up Results of Visit to Crimea

LD1204211895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2038 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol April 12 TASS—Ukrainian Minister Valeriy Pustovoitenko warned against overdramatising the Crimean conflict, saying that power in Ukraine should be integral.

Speaking at a meeting in Simferopol on Wednesday to sum up the results of his trip to the Crimea, Pustovoitenko, who led a working group of the Ukrainian Government, said that he had never heard from residents of the Crimea any criticism of Ukraine's policy towards the Crimea.

"People are tired of political disputes. They want to work. They want to work in normal conditions," he said. Pustovoitenko pledged assistance in harvesting crop and support for the repatriants [word as received] returning to the peninsula.

Speaking about disagreements between the legislative and executive branches of Ukraine and the Crimea, he warned against overdramatising the conflict, saying that "there should be a law on power and power should be integral."

On Crimean Parliament Chairman Serhiy Tsekov's trip to Moscow, Pustovoitenko said that "he may not be the chairman of the Supreme Soviet anymore when he returns.... But I am ready to work with him and seek a common language."

Pustovoitenko also said that the talks in the Crimea focused mostly on the development of oil and gas deposits on the Black Sea shelf in the Crimea in order to meet the needs in fuel both of the peninsula and the rest of Ukraine.

MP Objects to Current Draft of Law on State Power

LD1204225795 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Oleksandr Steshenko, chairman of the parliamentary commission for state building, activity of councils and self-government, believes that if necessary the Supreme Council is capable of consolidating itself. For example, evidence of this is the Supreme Council's decision of 17 March on Crimea. However, the draft law "on state power," which is being discussed today by parliamentarians, compels us to answer the question: Are we striving for a unitarian and authoritarian state or for a democracy? In order to overcome the current crisis in Ukraine, it is necessary for the president to become head of government. If this decision is made by the president, a great number of problems will be removed during the discussion of the text of the draft law. Oleksandr Steshenko said that a representative body—parliament—can function under two systems only: either under a system of self- government or under a system of legislative acts. "We are asked to pass a law, according to which parliament will function under the executive power system," Mr. Steshenko believes. If the draft law is approved in its present wording, it will be madness in legislation.

Moroz Comments on Kuchma Walkout

WS1304091495 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0147 GMT 13 Apr 95

[Report by Svetlana Seliutina and Oksana Hasiuk, "Special to IntelNews"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 12— The President's staff is charging that their leader was unacceptably insulted in Parliament on Wednesday when a Communist deputy made a speech attacking the administration, prompting President Leonid Kuchma and the entire Cabinet of Ministers to walk out of the session.

Presidential spokesman Mykhailo Doroshenko said the incident was a "pre-planned provocation" of Kuchma's leftist adversaries staged to disrupt the discussion of the Power Bill which started that day.

"Today's provocation of Deputy Stashenko was aimed at prevention of debate on the Power Bill, which would drastically impede building of a law-governed democratic state. But I am positive that the majority of deputies have common sense," said Presidential Chief of Staff Tabachnyk.

The President in any case didn't stay long enough to hear much of the speech by Oleksandr Stashenko, who represents a district in Luhansk oblast—walking out only minutes after it began.

Stashenko's unscheduled and unannounced speech was widely critical of the President and his administration, saying that "executive power in Ukraine is being corrupted and separated from the Ukrainian people."

"This is the general trend in the executive branch," he added.

Parliament Speaker Olekandr Moroz was widely criticized both inside and outside of the Rada for allowing the President to be insulted and for allowing the unscheduled speaker to take the floor and exceed his 10-minute time limit.

A source close to Parliament's Presidium said Stashenko and Viktor Marchenko, a key Socialist member, met with Moroz before the session of Parliament and agreed on the timing and content of the offending speech.

Moroz later denied any advance knowledge of the speech's content.

Although Moroz, for his part, admitted his procedural wrongdoings and promised to apologize to Kuchma after the session, he also knocked the President for being thin skinned.

"The President should have patience," said Moroz. "He was not right when he stormed out of the session."

Left-Wing Deputies Boycott Power Law Debate

LD1304101395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The Communist and part of the Socialist factions in the Ukrainian parliament blocked parliamentary proceedings on 13 April by refusing to register their presence. The deputies were protesting against the discussion of the law on state power and local self-government in its proposed form.

In a draft resolution circulated in parliament, the Communists suggested discussing amendments to the Ukrainian Constitution instead of the law on power, since the changes to Ukraine's power structure proposed by the president in this law significantly altered the Constitution.

The left-wing factions also insisted that the conciliatory commission drafting the law should represent factions and groupings proportionally, rather than have one representative from each.

Speaking to UNIAN, Serhiy Kyyashko, one of the Socialist faction leaders, said there was every chance to pass the law quickly, provided the parliamentary majority agreed to this procedure.

He said that during the slow and controversial reading of the law on 12 April the left-wing deputies did not disagree with its content but with the very procedure of the reading.

Because of the absence of quorum on 13 April, Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz interrupted the session to confer with the leaders of factions and groupings.

Socialist Party Declares Opposition to Kuchma's Reforms

LD1004184295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1440 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The Socialist Party of Ukraine [SPU] has declared its opposition to the Ukrainian president's economic reforms. The decision was made on 9 April at a meeting of the party's political council chaired by Oleksandr Moroz, the SPU leader and Supreme Council speaker.

In its first formal statement of opposition, the party said the move had been prompted by "the government's social and economic policy, which runs counter to the vital interests of the people and leads to the loss of national idependence, the destruction of Ukraine's productive forces, and a social explosion." The party also declared its desire for constructive cooperation with all political forces in Ukraine.

Speaking to UNIAN on 10 April, Ivan Chyzh, leader of the Socialist Party's faction in parliament, said the party's local branches had been instructed to "take an active stance and do their utmost to reverse the destructive course" of the present government. According to Chyzh, Moroz personally insisted that the party invite all political forces to constructive cooperation and said that irreconcilable opposition was unacceptable.

Chyzh said the entire left-wing bloc and the Socialist Party in particular had sufficient resources to form a cabinet. "However, the president will not accept it," he said.

Reaction to Cabinet's Ouster, Possible Ramifications

WS1104131295 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Tetyana Melnychuk: "The Government's Dismissal: Power Crisis or a Normal Political Process?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The second coming" of [former Prime Minister] Vitaliy Masol once produced a number of forecasts and speculations. One question was on everyone's tongue: How long will he survive this time? This was a topic for gossip among journalists and housewives. Nonetheless, few people suspected that, first, the prime minister's dismissal would be so delayed, second, that it would coincide with—or perhaps prompt to a certain degree—the ouster of the entire government.

It must be noted that it was so unexpected and unusually natural that it is hardly comprehensible. The predetermined and repeatedly forecast dismissal of the Cabinet of Ministers produced a feeling of "deep satisfaction" among few people. As everybody knows, 15 deputies voted against it. Among them was **Volodymyr Pylypchuk**, former chairman of the Supreme Council Commission for Economic Reforms, who is regarded as an architect of reforms. "I do not think that the entire government must be changed," he stated. In the opinion of Mr. Pylypchuk, it would be better to replace those who do not cope with their responsibilities, by a gradual rotation of Cabinet of Ministers members. We currently have a governmental crisis, Volodymyr Pylypchuk believes.

Still, the specter of crisis did not frighten the overwhelming majority of deputies, who hastily supported the no-confidence vote in the government. "This is a normal stage on a path toward reform of a normal executive branch," Deputy **Ihor Yukhnovskyy** is convinced. The president should form his own team. To do that, he primarily needs to completely reorganize power structures, Mr. Yukhnovskyy believes.

Let us recall that democrats hinted at the need for such reorganization immediately after the presidential elections. At that time, the fact that the prime minister was appointed before Leonid Kuchma's introduction triggered serious indignation among a number of deputies. The prime minister, appointed against any logic, "fell" eight months later anyway. "This is a completely logical conclusion," Serhiy Holovatyy noted. By the way, it was the "Reforms" faction, of which he is one of the leaders, that addressed the issue of the government's dismissal to the Supreme Council Presidium. "The issue was included on the agenda under enormous political pressure. It was delayed for a long time. Now, it is finally resolved," Serhiy Holovatyy noted with pleasure.

So, democrats and reformers consider themselves winners. Having "toppled" the inconvenient government, however, they automatically set another, much more difficult, goal: A new government must be formed now. One can presume that this process will not be as smooth as the previous one. By the way, the wholesale nonconfidence in the entire Cabinet of Ministers brings about another legal, and even moral dilemma. Serhiy Holovatyy put it in the following way: If a lack of confidence was expressed with regard to the government as a whole, will it be legal to appoint its individual members to a new government, which must be formed? After all, you must agree that there were skilled and intelligent people in the current cabinet as well....

Commentary Says Internal Politics 'Upstaged' by Russia

WS1004110295 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0146 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Commentary by Viktor Zamiatin: "Flags, Governments Ripped Up"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The events of the week prove that even the most momentous internal political developments are likely to be upstaged by foreign events—especially when these events concern Ukraine's relationship with Russia. Never mind that Parliament threw out the entire Cabinet of Ministers; it only takes a few daring statements made across Ukraine's border with its big northern neighbor and former overlord to illustrate what's really big on the list of the preoccupations of ordinary people here.

The internal political events of the last week nonetheless showed that Ukraine had joined the league of the world's nations committed to the democratic model of society. All previous reshuffles in the government were conducted under different scenarios.

Without violating any democratic principle, the legislature demanded that the government report on its performance. Although this is quite a normal phenomena in the whole civilized world, what is not quite normal is that the ensuing no-confidence vote was held without giving the floor to the outgoing government. Other than that, the government resignation proceeded in both a predictable and a relatively civilized manner. The behavior of the two branches of government after this move can be easily predicted: after slashing the Cabinet, the lawmakers will tackle their pressing problems by trying to simulate intensive activity, while the government will use the opportunity to prescribe its own remedies to a sick economy.

Comments by Cabinet members prove this assessment. According to Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Mityukov, since there is now no need to waste energy in disputes with deputies, the resignation will allow the Cabinet to work more efficiently. The lame-duck period may therefore be expected to drag on. The pattern of the government will see no substantial change with the announcement of a new Cabinet (Yevhen Marchuk is still in office as acting Prime Minister). Ardent reformers, such as Viktor Pynzenyk and Roman Shpek—who irritated diehard leftists—will likely be renominated all the same. The presidential camp also has pointedly refused to rule out their reappointment, which was not surprising, since it was Kuchma who insisted on putting them into the old Cabinet in the first place.

Incidentally, in an annual "state of the nation" speech delivered just 10 minutes after the no-confidence vote, Kuchma hinted that the government might stay in office. The following two-point thesis can be gleaned from the speech: 1) the current government setup is a road to nowhere and 2) the impasse must be resolved immediately so that critical reforms can be implemented.

This was the week of reports. It ended with the Parliament Presidium report, which resulted in no resignation, despite the increased attacks of nationalists hoping to dump Speaker Oleksandr Moroz. Following the finest traditions of the Soviet elite, the Parliament leadership, ignoring all the fuss, is still in office.

So, here we have it, at least for now: The idyllic peaceful coexistence of a diehard Parliament and a president who gains the upper hand in the fighting at the top and who knows what steps to take to put Ukraine back on its feet.

The next major step, according to Kuchma, is the approval of the administration's Power Bill, which will lay the foundation for legal relations between the executive and the legislature. Although its on next week's agenda the bill has fat chances for passage because deputies of the current unprofessional Parliament have no intention to give the President the power to dissolve the legislature. The President, on the other hand, is obviously not very afraid of the bill's provisions for impeachment.

The week was best characterized not by the reading of two reports but by the tearing of two flags: the Ukrainian flag in the Russian Duma (Parliament) and the Russian one in the Ukrainian Parliament. The farce, which has fortunately been condemned by the two countries, was started by a Russian nationalist deputy mad about Kuchma's treatment of Crimea. A Ukrainian nationalist deputy responded in kind the next day.

Leaving the flag tearers aside, Crimea was also the cause of a serious diplomatic dispute between Ukraine and Russia that concluded this week. Russian Ambassador Leonid Smolyakov was apparently not too pleased to announce the "withdrawal," as he put it, of a consular mission he had dispatched to Crimea in March to sign up ethnic Russians for citizenship. After fuming in relative silence for weeks about the mission, Ukrainian officials finally went on the offensive on March 28 when Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko sent the Russians a formal diplomatic note telling the group to leave, which they did this week after some foot dragging and only after saying they were going to leave anyhow because their operation had been completed.

Other ill winds have been blowing throughout the week in the realm of relations with Russia. Moroz reported that Russia intends to review the agreement on restructuring Ukraine's debts to Russia. A long-awaited Yeltsin visit to Kiev will likely be again postponed, according to other reports. The Russian Parliament must decide on April 12 whether to grant Sevastopol the status of a Russian city.

It is not surprising that Ukraine has started searching actively for new energy sources.

Kuchma Adviser Predicts No Final Constitution Before 1996

WS1204091095 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0032 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 11—Work on the new constitution will likely continue into 1996, said Volodymyr Hryniov, presidential regional policy adviser, Tuesday.

"It is obvious enough that the Constitutional Committee will be unable to prepare the final draft project of the new constitution within the terms that were originally set by the committee," he said.

According to Hryniov, the draft constitution should pave the way for the transition to the presidential-parliamentary republic, and also reach a political compromise in society. President Leonid Kuchma's adviser said that only one section of the constitution, that stipulating the territorial structure of Ukraine and the organization of local authorities, has been prepared by the committee, and that the preparation of other documents is far from complete.

Report Views Controversies on Draft Constitution

AU1204093995 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Anatoliy Ben: "Ukraine Is Not a Federation, or How We Are Writing the Main Law"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "Ukraine's territory is one, indivisible, inviolable, and integral," this is the vision of our state as proposed by authors of the new draft constitution who have united in the section "Territorial Structure and Territorial Organization of Power" within Ukraine's Constitutional Commission and held a "round table." According to Volodymyr Hrynyov, a member of the Constitutional Commission who presided over the meeting, local work on the parts on territorial structure and territorial power is completed, and it only remains to put everything in one single whole.

What do the authors propose: oblasts, krays, or federal lands?

"We proceeded from the realities that had taken shape, stated constitutional expert Vasyl Kravchenko. "More specifically, we propose that Ukrainian territory be divided into oblasts, rayons, settlements, villages, the Crimean Autonomous Republic, and two cities with a special status—Kiev and Sevastopol. However, in addition to that, we envisage the creation of zonal, regional, and district territorial units. Thereby we are giving constitutional space to evolution...."

In short, what is proposed to us is a unitary state, even though the draft constitution does not contain such a term.

The talk on Ukraine's land or federal structure has been rejected, and instead, a course toward the country's broad economic regionalization with most extensive rights for the regions has been proposed. Despite the fact that no definition has been offered for regions.

Therefore, the dispute on whether the Crimea will or will not be within Ukraine is perfectly understandable. The authors of the project drafted a separate constitutional chapter "Organization of Power in the Crimean Autonomous Republic." This means that the Crimea must be a republic with its own Constitution and other attributes of republic, but clearly, without its own institution of presidency. In order to avoid a discrepancy between the Ukrainian and Crimean legislation that exist today, a novelty is proposed: The Crimean Constitution must be approved by Ukraine's Supreme Council.

Frankly speaking, this is a strange position. The authors of the project themselves, at least some of them, admit that autonomy and the republic are incompatible things—the civilized world does not know of such a notion as an autonomous republic. The Crimean Autonomous Republic is a formal name, not filled with any content. Lawyer Mykola Korniyenko, one of the authors of this chapter in the project, admits that the Crimea must be an administrative- territorial unit without attributes of statehood, and its constitution should rather be called a Statute.

If so, why should the Crimean autonomy be referred to as a republic in Ukraine's Constitution? This was convincingly expounded at the "round table" by people's deputy Serhiy Holovatyy, a member of the Constitutional Commission, and his parliamentary colleague Ivan Plyushch. Do you not understand, insisted S. Holovatyy, that abuse of terms is dangerous, because there will always be forces that will want to fill the formal name "republic" with corresponding content.

There is no doubt that, during the discussion, especially by the Supreme Council, and during the adoption of the new Ukrainian Constitution, the place and role of councils of people's deputies will be a stumbling block. Authors of this part of the draft Constitution who are represented by Ihor Butko, a well-known lawyer and doctor of juridical sciences, proposed, to the general approval of the majority of participants in the "round table," that the council be recognized as a power body, but that this should not apply to its system. In his opinion, maintaining the present status of councils would mean failure to recognize the European Charter on Self-Government. This may block the road for Ukraine's joining the Council of Europe.

This position met with not just objection, but perhaps even indignation on the part of Volodymyr Moiseyenko, Ukraine's people's deputy from the Communist Party. Referring to the decision by his party's latest congress and its policy documents, he stated that their, as he put it, most prestigious political force will stand up for the place and role of councils of working people's deputies (his own term) as envisaged by the Constitution of the Ukrainian SSR. That is why Communists, proceeding from precisely that Constitution and in conjunction with strong executive power, will do everything they can to stand up for the system of councils.

Well, some people, having acknowledged the meticulous work of the authors of this part of the draft of the new Ukrainian Constitution, criticized them for excessive readiness to compromise and the feeling that the future Constitution is flawed. It seems, however, that nobody knows how the Constitution can be adopted without such a compromise.

Moroz Denies Opposing Kuchma on Economic Reforms

LD1204163895 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 11 April—The Ukrainian parliamentary grouping Unity has sent a letter to Supreme Council Chairman Oleksandr Moroz asking him to resign as the leader of the Ukrainian Socialist Party [SPU]. The letter quotes a report broadcast on television and radio on 10 April about an SPU meeting chaired by Moroz at which the party declared its opposition to the reform program launched by president Leonid Kuchma and approved by the Ukrainian parliament. "It is unacceptable that the chairman of the Supreme Council, whose role is that of a consolidating force in parliament, should head any political party at this crucial time for the state," says the letter, signed by Unity leader Viktor Merkushov.

The grouping demanded a personal explanation of what happened from Moroz and asked him to resign as the leader of the Socialist Party.

In his reply, Oleksandr Moroz argued that the Supreme Council had never discussed Kuchma's reform program, while the SPU political council had not taken any decisions on its opposition to the president. The speaker accused the media of deliberate misinformation. Moroz said that according to the SPU statute, it was up to a party congress to decide on the leader's resignation. Meanwhile, he said, the party chairman's powers were strictly limited to presiding at sittings two to four times a year and representing the SPU in interparty relations.

Faction Members Comment on Kuchma's Economic Address

WS1104150095 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Olha Chorna: "The President's 'April Theses' Impress Most Deputies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The impression the president's report made on Ukrainian parliamentarians could only be judged by a lack of empty seats in the session room during the entire address, which lasted almost two hours, as well as by the reserved applause at the end of his speech. Since deputies did not discuss the president's report at the session, journalists literally overloaded them with questions concerning the president's speech during a recess. Here are some of their comments.**

Volodymyr Yavorivskyy, "Statehood" faction:

"While the president's speech delivered in parliament last October, in which he set forth his economic policy, left the impression of a real revolution, I would not say the same thing about the current address. After all, about what kind of a 'revolution' can one talk? Leonid Kuchma is composedly and cleverly continuing the tactics he selected last October, but he is doing so under new economic and political circumstances.

"I was deeply impressed by the calm tone of his report. I expected some attacks against left-wing forces or the opposition. However, the report did not contain a trace of confrontation. I was satisfied with the president's speech, primarily because it was weighed and restrained, and included internal concentration and muscle, to put it this way.

"He addressed virtually everything. The president did not evade even the most acute issues, which he had tried to avoid previously. For example, he said that is it inadmissible to level social protection. This is a brave step. Another question is whether the Supreme Council is currently ready to back his report with a legislative basis. I think that it is not. Namely this is the tragic nature of the current situation. During the three years of our independence, we have managed to merely change the name of our state and its symbols. Nothing else has changed in our life for the better. God help us that this report and the president's political will make it possible for us to get out of this mire."

Oleksandr Karpov, Interregional Deputy Group:

"I am impressed by the general concept set forth by the president and his approach. These are exactly the civilized guidelines we should follow, to put it this way. The only question is how to fill them with contents, and set deadlines and priorities. We heard more detailed elucidation of the concept proposed by the president in the form of a new economic policy. I carefully studied that program yesterday, and I noticed that its provisions were expounded in this report, and, moreover, that certain organizational mechanisms were proposed. And this is very important. The issue of how they will be implemented, however, is still a question. The main thing, however, is that the president has political will. He is not going to fall back under the pressure of circumstances. His task is to overcome them and to not retreat in any event. This is what I respect."

Liliya Hryhorovych, "Rukh" faction:

"The report was very rich, realistic, and all-encompassing. There was nothing to add or remove. The president precisely diagnosed all of our diseases. Actually, whether one likes this or not, there is no way back to the past; history never goes backward. I think that if a majority of our people understood this now, it would be much easier for us to resolve all problems. Nostalgia for the past is dramatically slowing down our development. In my opinion, Leonid Kuchma's address can be compared with the harsh, though realistic, program F.D. Roosevelt once proposed for America to overcome the Great Depression. Kuchma also clearly names all things as they are, and proposes specific ways of resolving problems. After all, we are actually 'hanging' in the middle of the road from the administrative-planning system to the market economy. There is nothing worse than this situation. We thus must move forward."

Volodymyr Pylypchuk, "Center" faction:

"Time is needed to comprehend what we heard. In general, one can feel that there is a wish to improve our life. Work experience in conditions of a new economic policy was analyzed, and the need to correct conducted reforms was admitted. That is to say that this report, unlike the one delivered in October, is of a pragmatic nature rather than theoretic."

I did not hear any criticism of the president's report, perhaps because the most likely critics—left wingers—refused to comment, referring to a "party stance which has not yet been worked out."

Officials Comment on Kuchma's Address, Possible Reshuffles

WS1204100195 Kiev SILSKE ZHYTTYA in Ukrainian 8 Apr 95 pp 1,3

[Report by Larysa Zhalovaha, Serhiy Rakhmanin, and Maryana Oliynyk: "Judgment on the Government as Prelude to the President's Economic Address"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted]

The First Reaction to President's Address

One of the Rukh leaders, **Oleksandr Lavrynovych**, while presenting his impression from the address, noted the following: The president confirmed his wish to proceed along the path of radical reforms. However, the deputy pointed out, in his sensational speech delivered from the parliamentary rostrum last fall, [Ukrainian President] Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] stipulated specific deadlines for specific steps. These steps have not been taken, however. Quite understandable fears thus arise: Will the president have enough strength to fill his placid declarations with real contents?

The leader of the "Reforms" deputy group, **Serhiy Sobolyev**, stated the following: "Since parliamentarians had not received the text of the president's address, the deputies could only hear what the president reported today. My first impressions are as follows: It is a matter of principle that the president is ready to radically reform the central executive body and incorporate all state committees into unified vertical line of administrative power. However, the state leader, unfortunately, did not disclose what will be the fate of the presidential administration. It is not clear whether its structures parallel to the current Cabinet of Ministers structures will be preserved. His words about reforming the administration can be understood ambiguously."

Serhiy Vladyslavovych [Sobolyev] pointed to another contradictory point in the address. The president announced the expansion of local authorities' functions, primarily those connected with the forming of the budget. The draft budget, however, which was passed in the first reading, is clearly at variance with this statement, since it envisions the old scheme—much from the bottom to the top, and little from the top to the bottom. The parliamentarian also said that although Leonid Kuchma's desire to search for a golden mean between monetarism and social protection is natural, there are unfortunately little chances of finding it.

To the question of how many people from the old government we are to see in a new cabinet, Sobolyev responded cautiously. He does not expect any radical changes, nor does he think they are needed. A structural and functional rotation is inevitable, however: Since the office of deputy prime minister will most likely fall into oblivion, there may be not enough seats for everybody.

Senior Presidential Adviser **Oleksandr Razumkov** stated that the fact that the issue of the government's dismissal was raised before the executive branch leader's address came as a surprise to Kuchma's team: "This seemed to be quite illogical."

National Security Council Secretary **Volodymyr Horbulin** said that the cabinet's dismissal was a necessary measure, which will make it possible to resolve personnel problems abundant in the current system of executive power.

Petro Symonenko, first secretary of the Communist Party of Ukraine Central Committee, proposes to tackle the personnel issue starting from the well-known five individuals. It is unlikely, however, that the president will give him the "heads" of [Deputy Prime Ministers] Shpek or Osyka he is demanding. Regarding similar questions, the president, as everyone knows, is adamant, which can be confirmed by the example of [Presidential Administration Chief] Tabachnyk. Meanwhile, the first potential candidates to be "fired" were named behind the scenes. [Agriculture Minister] Yuriy Karasyk was named most often. Yuriy Mykhaylovych [Karasyk] does not suit the plan, according to which agriculture will be a priority sector. After all, he may only open a list....

Further Reaction to Kuchma's Annual Address

WS1204083195 Lvov MOLODA HALYCHYNA in Ukrainian 6 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Oksana Hutsul: "The Parliament Began a Revolution; Peaceful Revolution"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] According to the Supreme Soviet's agenda, deputies do not discuss, but only take notes during the president's annual address, and so they did this year. Reaction to President Kuchma's [4 April] report was discussed behind the scenes.

Volodymyr Furkalo, chief of the Presidential Administration Foreign Policy Directorate:

I would like to present my remarks concerning the area in which I work. The principles of our foreign policy were set as early as two years ago, and they are being implemented successfully. We will continue to implement them—to confirm our sovereignty and independence. This was stated by the president in his address. He also emphasized that Ukraine currently needs a sound economic basis to secure its sovereignty in the international arena. In my opinion, countries able to grant us as much economic, political, diplomatic, moral, and technical assistance as possible should somehow react now.

Volodymyr Horbulin, chief of the Presidential Administration National Security Directorate:

I have never had optimism or pessimism, but only realistic opinions on the economic situation. And I have always had a clear program for achieving specific tasks within a specific period of time. Of course, political aspects can influence certain mechanisms and alter them. Nonetheless, a task must be achieved. Otherwise, there will be neither political nor any other processes. The economic situation is very complex, perhaps even dramatic. This was quite clearly, though surprisingly correctly, revealed in the president's address. There is nothing to add.

People's Deputy Oleksandr Yemets:

The situation with the government's dismissal is quite comical, though natural. It is comical because the prime minister was dismissed due to his retirement, and the government was ousted due to a vote of no-confidence. A lack of confidence means that the government, from the Supreme Council's point of view, is unable to carry out its own programs. Our government is formed in a quite specific manner, however. Some ministers are directly appointed by the president, certain ministers are coordinated with the Supreme Council, and others are elected by the Supreme Council, for example, chairmen of the Security Service [SBU], the Antimonopoly Committee, or the Border Committee. So, although the SBU chairman is dismissed as a government member, is he also dismissed as SBU chairman? As for the Antimonopoly Committee chairman, we decided that he cannot be replaced for seven years. A lack of coordination among the principles of power makes these steps resemble an unserious game. Today we dismissed the government, and tomorrow the president will appoint the same people. The problem lies somewhere else—we must find a mechanism for transforming the government into a team of like-minded people, who would purposefully implement some program. How can we achieve that? There are two mechanisms in the world. The first mechanism is when a parliamentary majority forms a government—the government is then integral, and the parliament is responsible for it. There is no clear-cut majority in our parliament, however. There is another way out, according to which the government acts as an advisory body subordinated to the president, and the latter heads the executive branch and appoints ministers. I would opt for the second way, since there is no majority in the current political situation. Nevertheless, today's events have a positive aspect as well, since the president now has more possibilities of forming a Cabinet of Ministers he considers is required, even if the Supreme Council attempts to hamper the appointment of the prime minister. Additionally, this will force Leonid Kuchma to treat the government in a more responsible manner, since it will be hard for him to say that he has nothing to do with these people.

Security Council Called State's 'Highest' Body

WS1004140095 Kiev VYBIR in English 0857 GMT 10 Apr 95

[Report by Viktor Tkachuk: "The National Security Council as the Highest Executive Body in Ukraine"—from the "Ukrainian News" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] When Mr. Kuchma was elected president he reported of his intention to establish the rigid vertical structure of executive power on a lawful basis. Probably his statement was caused by the actions of former President Kravchuk who had set up the institution of president's representatives not specified by the constitution. That institution brought about dual power at the local level—president's representatives on the one hand, the councils of people's deputies on the other hand. The new president quickly corrected that mistake—in one of his first decrees, Mr. Kuchma provided the chairmen of local councils with the rights of representatives of the state bodies. Besides, he placed the council chairmen directly under the president's jurisdiction. However, soon the legislative "space," given to the president by Articles 114-115 of the Ukrainian Constitution, appeared to be too small for Mr. Kuchma. On August 23, 1994 the president issued the decree on new regulations concerning the National Security Council of Ukraine. Few people know that, according to the decree, the council, consisting of the persons selected by the president, was given the functions of the highest executive body in the country. Having liquidated dual power at the local level, Mr. Kuchma, probably not even wishing so, created such power at the highest level. The media have not hitherto said anything to this end. Still, the said decree acquired particular importance today when the parliament, on April 4, passed the vote of no confidence in the government. On April 7, the National Security Council, mostly consisting of hex-ministers, held a meeting considering their resignation. So, what is the role of this council? Why are decisions of the council (which was a consultative body of President Kravchuk) "compulsory for fulfillment by all executive bodies?" Why are such decisions made by a "simple majority of votes" when even the president may find himself in minority? Let us try to find the answers to these difficult questions.

Establishment of the National Security Council

On January 15, 1992, L. Kravchuk issued resolution No. 25 on establishment of the Commission for Elaboration of Proposals Concerning the Council's Status, Activity and Structure. One of the commission's tasks was to work out the bill on the National Security Council and the concept of national security of Ukraine. Besides, the commission had to "specify the problems vital for the national security and the ways of their solution prior to adoption of the national security law." Soon after, the commission elaborated the council's regulations that were approved on July 3, 1992. Says L. Kravchuk: "At that time, the National Security Council was regarded by us as a temporary body which would act until the adoption of the national security concept and the law on national security." Neither the concept nor the law have so far been adopted. According to the said regulations, the council was a consultative body. That document said, among other things: "The council's main task is to elaborate the proposals and draft resolutions of the president on realizing the policy in the sphere of protection of national interests and national security of Ukraine." The council's structure had two levels: Permanent members and ordinary members. The council's head was the president and the secretary was appointed by the president. Permanent members were selected according to their posts. They were as follows—the premier, the defense minister, the foreign minister, the director of the Security Service. Thus, in case of formation of a coalition government the people that did not suit the president could become permanent members of the council. The Institute for Strategic Studies under the president provided the council with relevant information. However, it often happens in Ukraine that nothing is more permanent than something temporary.

Development of the National Security Council

November 26, 1992 was the second stage in the council's history when the council's composition was changed. President Kravchuk decreed to remove V. Fokin and Y. Shcherbak from the council and replaced them by Y. Kostenko and L. Kuchma. At that time, Fokin's government resigned, Kuchma was appointed premier, Shcherbak became Ukraine's ambassador to Israel while his position of the environment minister was taken by Y. Kostenko, Rukh activist.

One year later, on November 22, 1993, the council's composition underwent changes for the second time. Permanent members were president Kravchuk, Acting Premier Zvyahilskyy, Security Service Director Marchuk, Interior Minister Vasylyshyn, Foreign Minister Zlenko, Defense Minister Radetskyy, Vice Premier for Armaments Industry Shmarov. Members of the council were: V. Hubenko (head of the State Border Guard Committee), Environment Minister Kostenko, Justice Minister Onopenko, B. Paton (president of the National Academy of Sciences), Finance Minister Pyatachenko and Health Minister Spizhenko.

That was the last composition of the council with its status as a consultative body under the president. It remained intact until L. Kuchma was elected the president of Ukraine. At that time, in the fall of 1993 nobody even thought that in one year the council would be able to decide the fate of this country. It is hard to say today when L. Kuchma decided to change the council's status. After he became president, only three members of the council remained in its composition—Marchuk, former Security Service director, professional security officer who is now acting premier, Shmarov, former director of a military plant, now the first civilian occupying the post of defense minister, and Y. Kostenko—one of the few ministers that retained their posts after Zvyahilskyy's resignation.

On August 23, 1994, President Kuchma issued decree No. 469/94 which fixed the new regulations on the council which differed considerably from the previous ones. All decrees by President Kravchuk concerning the council were canceled. The council was turned from a temporary consultative body into "a collective body under the president of Ukraine engaged in the organizational and coordinating activity in the sphere of national security." In addition to purely consultative functions, the council received some different ones like:

—organization of interdepartmental interaction and coordination of the efforts of the state executive bodies in the sphere of ensuring the national security.

The council's structure was also changed. The division into permanent and ordinary members was canceled. Instead, the council's presidium (like the former political bureau of the Communist Party) was established. The very principle of the council's formation was changed:

"Heads of the state bodies and other officials appointed by the president may be members of the National Security Council." The new regulations also say that the council's presidium includes the premier, the secretary of the council, vice premiers responsible for law and order, defense, military industry and other aspects of the national security. So, the council's presidium included: Premier Masol, Secretary Horbulin, Vice Premier Marchuk, and Defense Minister Shmarov.

Neither Foreign Minister Udovenko nor First Vice Premier for Economic Reform Pynzenyk or Security Service Director Malikov became members of the presidium whose composition is defined by President Kuchma.

Very important is Item 5 of the new regulations: "Decisions of the council and its presidium are compulsory for fulfillment by all state executive bodies." The decisions are made by a "simple majority of votes." Only in case of equal division of votes, the president's vote is the decisive one. This means that it is quite possible that the president may find himself in minority while his opponents in the council, who were not elected by the people, may make decisions compulsory for all executive bodies. This item disturbs the balance between legislative and executive branches of power in Ukraine since neither the council nor its presidium are accountable to the parliament. Besides, they may make decisions contrary to the president's will.

All this looks like a government within the government, or like the committee for emergency situations. So far, the council has not made a single important decision but it can happen any day.

The council's composition was fixed by the president's decree of October 22, 1994.

Let us imagine the situation: Kuchma and Horbulin vote "for" in the council while Marchuk, Masol, and Shmarov vote "against." What next? Though such situation is a bit unreal but who knows.... The results of such voting will be "compulsory."

Resignation of the Government—a New Role of the National Security Council

Even after the recent government's resignation, the council suffered least of all since its members are appointed by the president. While parliamentarians are guessing which people the president will appoint to the key posts in the new government, the council keeps working. Sure, all members of the council's presidium excluding V. Masol will be members of the new cabinet. The president has enough time before submitting the new cabinet's composition for the parliament's consideration. The law fixes no period for such submission. It has become known that the president is going to propose that, before such submission, the parliament must pass the law on power which provides him with exclusive right to form the government. What will happen if the parliament does not pass the law? One of the variants is that the present cabinet will continue to function with possible reshuffles pursuant to the decisions made by the National Security Council.

The very existence of such a council substitutes the force of the law on power. The chief goal of said law is to strengthen the president's executive power. Today the president has no right to issue decrees on the issues being specified by the laws passed by the parliament. However, the council has no restrictions of such kind. Probably, the very idea of the council's establishment was to get the president out of the parliament's control. The council is accountable only to the president and its decisions cannot be changed by the parliament. But it is possible that sometime the council will get out of the president's control. Theoretically, it is quite possible.

Parliament Reinstates Tatar Voting Rights, Allaying 'Fears'

WS0704114395 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0311 GMT 7 Apr 95

["Special to INTELNEWS" by Oksana Hasiuk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 6—The fears of Tatars and other "deported nations" in Crimea aroused over the recent nullification of Crimean electoral law by Ukraine's Parliament may have been eased somewhat on Thursday when the legislature in Kiev passed a law reinstating the privileges they had enjoyed under the old law.

The law worked out by the parliamentary Committee of Local Government Councils provides for the creation of additional local election voting districts for Crimea's Tatars, Bulgarians, Greeks, Germans and Armenians, most of whom were deported more than 50 years ago by the government of Joseph Stalin.

According to the new law, such voting districts may be created by the Ukrainian Central Electoral Commission 60 days before local elections in areas where the total number of deported citizens is not less than the average number of voters in the regular voting districts.

The new regulations also prohibit the special voting districts from being created in areas in which the deported citizens already hold a majority among registered voters.

Nina Karplachova, a deputy from Crimea, successfully proposed an amendment to the law, extending the voting district provisions to include descendants of deported citizens.

"The law permitting deported nations to take part in elections in Crimea will be in effect temporarily, until the local councils to be elected on June 25 assume office," said Deputy Oleksandr Yemets, the Minister of Nationalities and Migration in the outgoing Cabinet of Ministers.

Crimean Parliament Decree on Kuchma Edict

954F2020B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea: "On Edict 278/95 of the President of Ukraine, 'On Certain Questions of the Relationship Between the Central Organs of State Executive Power and the Organs of Executive Power of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea' of 31 March 1995"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with Edict 278/95 of the President of Ukraine, "On Certain Questions of the Relationship Between the Central Organs of State Executive Power and the Organs of Executive Power of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" of 31 March 1995, the Government of Crimea is brought under the direct jurisdiction of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, and there has been a change in the procedure of the appointment of the prime minister and members of the Government of Crimea. The chairmen and the executive committees of the city, district, city district, community, and village councils of people's deputies of the Republic of Crimea have been removed from the control of the Supreme Council of Crimea.

The adopted edict of the president of Ukraine violates Article 80 of the Constitution of Ukraine, which reserved to the Supreme Council of Crimea the right to create organs of state administration and executive and other bodies accountable to it.

This right is confirmed by Articles 8 and 13 of the law of Ukraine "On the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" of 31 March 1995.

In addition, the Supreme Council of Ukraine, guided by the Constitution of Ukraine, rejected in full session on 24 March 1995 the decree "On Abolition of the Decrees of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea Concerning Changes in the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea."

On the grounds of the foregoing, in accordance with Article 80 of the Constitution of Ukraine and clause 3 of Article 8 of the law of Ukraine "On the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" of 17 March 1995 and the constitutional statute of the Republic of Crimea "On the Government of Crimea," and by virtue of the fact that Ukraine, in the person of its highest organ of legislative power, is the guarantor of the legal status of the Republic of Crimea specified by the Constitution of Ukraine, the Supreme Council of Crimea decrees that:

1. It proposes that the Supreme Council of Ukraine veto Edict 278/95 of the President of Ukraine, "On Certain Questions of the Relationship Between the Central Organs of State Executive Power and the Organs of Executive Power of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea" of 31 March 1995 as contrary to the Constitution and legislation of Ukraine.

2. That the Government of Crimea shall up to the adoption by the Supreme Council of Ukraine of a decision on the edict of the president of Ukraine abide strictly by the constitutional statute of the Republic of Crimea "On the Government of Crimea."

3. That the local councils of people's deputies of the Republic of Crimea shall in their activity be strictly guided by the law of Ukraine "On Local Councils of People's Deputies and Local and Regional Government."

[Signed] S. Tsekov, chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea.
City of Simferopol, 3 April 1995.
No 408-1.

Text of Edict Subordinating Crimea to Kiev

954F2020A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Edict of the president of Ukraine: "On Certain Questions of the Relationship Between the Central Organs of State Executive Power and the Organs of Executive Power of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the abolition by the Supreme Council of Ukraine of the constitution and certain laws of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and to ensure for the time until its new constitution has been adopted the manageability of all spheres of social life in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and also considering the proposal of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the appeal of the chairmen of city and district councils of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and their executive committees and guided by clauses 1, 4, and 7-1 of Article 114-5 of the Constitution of Ukraine, I resolve:

1. For the period up to the implementation of a new constitution of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea:

to bring the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea effective as of 17 March 1995, which was deemed competent by the decree of the Supreme Council of Ukraine of 17 March 1995 "On Procedure of Implementation of the Law of Ukraine 'On the Abolition of the Constitution and Certain Laws of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea,'" directly under the jurisdiction of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;

that the prime minister of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall be appointed by the president of Ukraine following a recommendation of the chairman of the Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea. Other members of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea shall be appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine following a recommendation of the prime minister of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

2. That on questions of the exercise of the delegated authority of the state executive in accordance with Edict 430 of the president of Ukraine of 6 August 1994, "On Leadership of Structures of the State Executive Locally," the chairmen of district, city district, city, village, and community councils of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and their executive committees shall be accountable to and subject to the control of the Government of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, and through it, to the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and the president of Ukraine.

3. That the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine shall provide for the timely and full implementation of the measures specified by edicts and directives of the president of Ukraine and decisions of the Government of Ukraine aimed at the stabilization of the socioeconomic situation in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

5. [Number as received] That the Ministry of Ukraine for the Press and Information and the State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting of Ukraine shall organize the comprehensive and objective illustration in the news media of the situation that has taken shape in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and an explanation of the measures adopted by the Supreme Council of Ukraine, the president of Ukraine, and the Government of Ukraine for a resolution of the entire set of problems in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea.

6. That this edict shall take effect the day it is signed.

[Signed] L. Kuchma, president of Ukraine
Kiev, 31 March 1995.

Republican Party Deplores Kiev Actions

954F2051A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 6 Apr 95 p 1

["Statement of the Republican Party of Crimea (Republic Movement of Crimea Party)"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 17 March 1995 in Kiev, the Supreme Council of Ukraine adopted decisions that canceled out the statehood of the Republic of Crimea and reduced it to the level of an ordinary oblast of Ukraine.

By its decision the parliament of Ukraine flouted all the democratic principles and norms that exist in the civilized world.

The supreme organ of legislative power of a state laying claim to the status of a state based on the rule of law ignored the will of the people of Crimea, expressed at the referendum on 20 January 1991, when an absolute majority of Crimeans advocated the reconstitution of the Republic of Crimea as a component of the Union and an accessory to the Union Treaty.

In violation of its legislative acts and the constitution, the Supreme Council of Ukraine unilaterally changed the status of the Republic of Crimea in the direction of a considerable reduction in its authority.

The rights of the Supreme Council of Crimea were limited in matters of adoption of a constitution and addenda and revisions to it. The territorial unity of the Republic of Crimea was violated. The city of Sevastopol was by Kiev's willful act withdrawn from the Republic of Crimea.

The Republic of Crimea has been deprived of its own state symbols. The employment of the following state symbols: the yellow and blue flag and trident, which are associated among Crimeans with the fascist occupation regime and its accomplices, is required everywhere.

The Republican Party of Crimea regards this as a humiliating "gift" to the participants in the Great Patriotic War on the eve of the 50th victory anniversary.

The Republican Party of Crimea expresses its emphatic disagreement with the fact that the Republic of Crimea has by Kiev's decision been deprived of the right to determine the activity of the local government authorities, have its own law on elections, and fix the date of them. Kiev is imposing a law which, in defiance of international rules, divides its citizens on a national basis and forms a privileged ethnic minority.

The Republican Party of Crimea emphasizes that the Republic of Crimea has been deprived of the right to adopt legislative acts regulating questions of ownership, tax policy, and the execution and organization of the budget, which prevents the Republic of Crimea from pursuing its own socioeconomic policy in the interests of the citizens of the republic.

In development of the anti-Crimea decisions that had been adopted, President of Ukraine L. Kuchma issued on 31 March 1995 an edict on the transfer of the Government of Crimea to the jurisdiction of the Government of Ukraine. The decision on the direct subordination of the heads of cities and districts transfers the question of legal conflicts between Crimea and Ukraine to the plane of deprivation of Crimeans of elementary human rights—the right to independently elect local executive authorities.

Crimea is reduced to a status where it has less authority than any oblast of Ukraine.

We are angered by the statements of the chairmen of city and district executive committees such as S.V. Kunitsyn, A.V. Pitsukha, A.P. Danilenko, V.F. Yermak, V.F. Usachev, and others agreeing with this scenario in order to hold on to office at any price.

The Republican Party of Crimea expresses an emphatic protest against this instance of lawlessness and against the aspiration of nationalist circles of Ukraine to reduce Crimea to the status, virtually, of a colony with a military-police regime.

The Republican Party of Crimea demands that the Supreme Council of Ukraine and the president of Ukraine comply with the will of Crimeans expressed at the referendum on 20 January 1991 and cancel the decisions adopted on 17 and 30 March 1995.

The Republican Party of Crimea declares that it will do all within its power to fulfill the will of the people of Crimea.

Adopted at a session of an enlarged Coordinating Council of the Republican Party of Crimea—Republican Movement of Crimea on 1 April 1995.

Crimea Authorities Approve of Militia Subordination to Kiev

LD0704222595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 7 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—A conference of chairmen of city and district executive committees of Crimea on 7 April considered the crime situation on the peninsula. Acting Prime Minister of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea Anatoliy Demydenko chaired the conference.

According to Major-General Vitaliy Kyrychenko, the chief of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine in Crimea, the main problems on the peninsula are drug abuse among teenagers, unemployment among young people (8,000 of last year's secondary school graduates in Crimea remain jobless), the smuggling of weapons, etc.

Chairmen of district and city executive committees were pointing out that they were satisfied with the existing structure of the bodies of internal affairs on the peninsula, which is conditioned by their subordination not to the local bodies of power but to the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs. In their opinion, this exactly factor made it possible to prevent the militia from being involved in politics during last year's crisis.

Valeriy Chernyshov, Ukrainian deputy minister of internal affairs, appealed to the conference to contribute towards preventing the current political developments in Crimea from influencing the activity of the local militia.

A rotation of the militia subunits is currently taking place in Crimea.

Franchuk: Crimea To Consolidate Autonomy Within Ukraine

LD0804143895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1424 GMT 8 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol April 8 TASS—The Crimean Government headed by Anatoliy Franchuk today reaffirmed its policy towards consolidation of the Crimean autonomy within the framework of Ukraine.

"The government remains adherent to the Crimean statehood within powers of the autonomous republic, which is part of Ukraine. It stands for the division of powers and does not intend political leadership in society," says a statement of the Crimean Government press service circulated here today. The direct subordination of the Crimean Government to the Government of Ukraine is estimated as "justified for consolidation of the executive power vertical on the peninsula and boosting of economic reforms."

It is noted that the "Crimean Parliament shall reserve its role in the republic and control the government through law-making."

About 43 Percent of Kievans Support Actions on Crimea

LD0804181395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1549 GMT 8 Apr 95

["INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news item]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 8 (Interfax-Ukraine)—About 43 percent of Kiev's residents support the March 17 decisions of Ukraine's Supreme Soviet on Crimea in accordance with which Crimea's Constitution was cancelled and the institute of presidency in this autonomy was abolished. As many as 11 percent of respondents disagree with these measures and 26 percent do not know anything about them. These are results of an opinion poll among 400 residents of the Ukrainian capital which was organized by the Kiev center Democratic Initiatives in the second part of March.

About 11 percent of the respondents have not determined their attitude to the "Crimean" decisions of the Ukrainian parliament and 9 percent are not interested in the events going on in Crimea.

Expressing their attitude concerning solution of the Crimean problem, 48 percent of the respondents declared that the conflict must be solved only by means of negotiations. A total of 14 percent believe that any methods, which can bring order, including military ones, are appropriate. As many as 15 percent said that it is possible to hold a referendum on the peninsular's status. About 17 percent have not determined their attitude to this problem.

Homeless Crimean Servicemen Intend To Sue Government

LD0804225695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1555 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ternopol [No date as received]—A constituent conference on setting up an All-Ukrainian Union of Homeless Servicemen in

Reserve and Retirement got down to business in Ternopol on 8 April. At the conference retired officers of Crimea read out an appeal to the governments of Ukraine, Russia, and other CIS republics, to the countries of Europe and to the leaders of the United Nations, OSCE, and UNESCO.

An extremely difficult situation has taken shape in Crimea as regards the provision of housing to officers dismissed from the armed forces of the former USSR following the reduction of the troops stationed mainly on the territories of Russia, the Baltic states, and the European countries that had been part of the Warsaw Treaty, the appeal says. Ukraine's current laws and intergovernmental agreements between the CIS countries on providing officers in reserve and retirement with housing within three months are not observed. As of 1 January this year, 1,534 families of officers in reserve and retirement in Crimea were not provided with housing.

The public organization of homeless officers in reserve of the Republic of Crimea intends to bring in a lawsuit to the Supreme Court of Ukraine demanding that "the cost of building housing for officers in reserve be exacted from the government of Ukraine in their favor." At the same time, the former servicemen of Crimea ask the governments of Russia, the Baltic states, and the European countries that had been part of the Warsaw Treaty to render them a target-oriented financial aid to build housing. The authors of the appeal also address their request for aid to the United Nations, OSCE, UNESCO and public organizations that protect the interests of servicemen in European countries.

High-Ranking Kiev Delegation Arrives in Simferopol

LD1004203595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1829 GMT 10 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Simferopol April 10 TASS—A high- ranking Ukrainian delegation of more than 30 members arrived in Simferopol late on Monday to study the situation on the ground following the abolition of the Crimean Constitution and presidency.

The delegation led by Minister Valeriy Pustovoytenko includes representatives of various Ukrainian ministries and agencies. It will "deal exclusively with economic issues," particularly explore the ways to increase oil and gas production in the Crimea, construct a plant to process gas condensate, build a gas pipeline and prepare proposals concerning the privatisation of land and resort facilities.

Pustovoytenko said that many Kiev newspapers will open their bureaus in the Crimea.

Speaking about the situation in the peninsula, the minister said that "there is no president in the Crimea. That's it."

Its trip to the Crimea is part of the plan developed by Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and the government to stabilise the situation on the peninsula and stimulate its social and economic development.

A group of Ukrainian lawmakers have arrived in Simferopol along with the delegation to study "the political and legal situation in the Crimea."

Majlis Sees UN, The Hague Role in Solving Fleet 'Problem'

AU1204134195 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 Apr 95 p 6

[Unattributed report from the Crimea: "The Majlis Demands That Russian Troops Be Withdrawn From the Peninsula"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sevastopol regional Crimean Tatar Majlis has adopted an appeal to Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and to our state's Supreme Council. The regional Majlis, having expressed its indignation at the activity of the consular group of the Russian Federation's Embassy in Ukraine, which worked for some time in Simferopol to grant Russian citizenship to Crimean residents, and of the commission headed by chairman of the Russian State Duma Konstantin Zatulin, demands that an end be put to the outburst of Russian chauvinism and extremism in the Crimea.

"In order to resolve the problem of the Black Sea Fleet, it is necessary to turn to the United Nations and to the International Court in The Hague, because Russia is deliberately delaying the division of the Black Sea Fleet to destabilize the situation in the Crimea and to put pressure upon Ukraine," reads the appeal. The Majlis demands that "the Russian part of the Black Sea Fleet be withdrawn from Ukraine and supports the edict issued by the president of our state on direct subordination of the Crimean Government to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers."

Prosecutor on Extradition of Zvyahilskyy, Others

WS1104105195 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0305 GMT 11 Apr 95

[Report by Sveltana Seliutina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 10—General Prosecutor Vladislav Datsyuk said on Monday that the case against former acting Prime Minister Yukhym Zvyahilskyy is almost prepared and will head to the courts soon.

He also said that based upon conversations he held with certain law enforcement colleagues in Switzerland, whom he did not identify, he was confident of obtaining extradition of the 10 individuals, including Zvyahilskyy, to be named in his indictments relating to the case.

The former acting Prime Minister, who has been accused of embezzling more than $25 million while in office, is reportedly in Israel, where as a Jewish person he is entitled to seek asylum under that nation's Law of Return.

Speaking at a press conference given by Ukrainian law enforcement bodies held in the wake of a session of the President's National Security and Anti-Crime Coordinating Committee, Datsyuk and other officials also used the opportunity to discuss their serious concerns over the extent of organized crime.

"Struggle against the fifth power in Ukraine—criminality—is the question of primary importance today for the guaranteeing of state national security," said Deputy Committee Chairman Vasyl Durdynets.

According to Durdynets, during the last three months the General Prosecutor's Office submitted 279 criminal cases to the courts, 92 criminal groups were disclosed by the Security Service and 15 bandit groups were rendered harmless by local police.

In 1994, the Security Service prevented the signing of unprofitable contracts estimated at more than $150 billion. During the last week alone investigators instituted 51 such cases, according to Security Service Chairman Valeriy Malikov.

While taking note of such positive developments, officials nevertheless, pointed out the country's criminal situation continues to worsen, especially when it concerns financial crimes.

About KBV [karbovantsi] 123 trillion (or $820 million) in short-term credits is currently unaccounted for, said Deputy Interior Ministry Oleksandr Ishchenko. In 1994, the state treasury didn't receive 48 percent of the income it was supposed to get from exports—a shortfall of $3.2 billion.

According to Datsyuk, about KBV 37 trillion is illegally deposited in foreign banks.

The officials blamed continuing weakness in both Ukrainian law and in diplomatic relations for the ongoing nature of the problem.

"We don't have direct international agreements with foreign countries, and it takes us too much time to achieve results because of different procedures in different states," said Datsyuk.

During the past two years, however, Internal Affairs Ministry representatives have tried to improve the situation by establishing legal relations with more than 50 countries, according to Ishchenko, who expressed the hope that this should aid in the return of much ill-gotten gain.

Official Deems Organized Crime Threat to National Security

WS1104084195 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0732 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's Kiev correspondent, the deputy chairman of the presidential coordinative committee for fighting organized crime and corruption, Vasyl Durdynets, addressed a press conference in Kiev on Monday, April 10. While speaking at the press conference, Mr. Durdynets said that the current situation in Ukraine involving the activities of organized bands constitutes a threat to Ukraine's national security.

Mr. Durdynets briefed journalists on the results of the activities of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies and the outcome of the joint meeting of the Ukrainian National Security Council and the coordinative committee for combating organized crime and corruption which took place under the chairmanship of Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma on April 7. He noted that even though the measures aimed at bringing the situation under control are becoming more effective, the number of economic crimes committed in the country would have been far less had it been that the Ukrainian economic sector was more organized. He called for more effective legislation as well as adequate funding of Ukrainian law enforcement agencies.

Also present at the press conference to answer questions from journalists were Ukraine's Prosecutor-General Vladislav Datsyuk, Ukrainian Security Service Chairman Valeriy Malikov and Deputy Internal Affairs Minister Oleksandr Ishchenko.

Rukh Leader Explains Faction's Position on Crimea Issue

AU1104094595 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 Apr 95 p 3

[Interview with Oleksandr Lavrynovych, coordinator of the Rukh parliamentary faction, by Lyudmyla Kokhanets: "One Step Toward Kiev and Two Steps—Away From It?"—first two paragraphs published in boldface]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is known that Rukh [Ukraine's People's Movement for Perestroyka] considers Ukraine to be a unitary state: The availability of the Crimean autonomy does not fit into this model of state structure. However, even the most radical minds in the Rukh parliamentary faction are not demanding that the question of abolishing the autonomy be resolved immediately, today. In the opinion of deputies representing Rukh, consecutive steps in this direction are needed, since galloping strides can only harm the cause. Here, the saying "make haste slowly" is particularly to the point, since this is the only way that is in the interests of both the nation as a whole and the residents of the peninsula. Besides, the Rukh faction has constantly stressed the need to support the interests of the deported people, in particular, the Crimean Tatars: The Crimea is their homeland, and the indigenous population has the right to self- determination on the territory. It is known that the Crimean Tatars consistently stand up for the unity of the Ukrainian state and actively resist intentions to tear the peninsula away from Ukrainian shores.

Rukh coordinator Oleksandr Lavrynovych tells us about the position of the deputies representing the Rukh parliamentary faction.

[Kokhanets] Mr. Lavrynovych, the Rukh faction unanimously supported the actions to establish constitutional order in the Crimea and strengthen central power. You called the 17 March parliamentary decision a step forward. However, a week later, when the Supreme Council again turned to the burning issues of the sunlit peninsula, the deputies representing Rukh unanimously quoted Lenin: "One Step Forward and Two Steps Back...."

[Lavrynovych] To our very great regret, the 24 March decision, by contrast with the one adopted a week earlier, may be characterized using Lenin's words—it is, indeed, two steps back. At the meeting of the faction, we discussed and supported those projects that were in conformity with the state-oriented interests and promoted a normalization of life in the autonomy. They were submitted for discussion at the session. However.... Having prepared on 17 March a good foundation for resolving the problem as a whole, the parliament again forgot about logic.

[Kokhanets] Maybe the idea is above logic?

[Lavrynovych] It appears so. The problem was not addressed from the point of view of state interests, but rather from purely ideological ones. The way in which the left-wing forces at the Supreme Council responded to the proposal on abolishing the Crimean law "On the Crimean Government" and the Crimean Supreme Council decree "On the Government List" showed that it is much more important for them to have their adherents at the head of the Crimean executive structures and influence them than to resolve the question of nationwide significance. This is quite unfortunate. Because party solidarity has added tension on the peninsula, where despite all logic, a government with two premiers functions contrary to logic.

[Kokhanets] Let us leave emotions aside. The Rukh faction believes that actions by the Crimean Supreme Council are unlawful. Why?

[Lavrynovych] Totally unlawful. We abolished the Constitution of the autonomy and, consequently, the related constitutional law on the government cannot be valid. What is particularly important is that the Supreme Council decree "On Implementing the Law 'On the Crimean Autonomous Republic'" reads clearly and unambiguously that Ukraine's Supreme Council recognizes as legitimate those power bodies that function in the Crimea. This is about the Crimean Supreme Council and Government. Why was this done? Simply because the law "On the Crimean Autonomous Republic" stresses that Sevastopol is not a constituent part of the autonomy. Therefore, if one wants to be consistent, the 12 deputies elected in Sevastopol to the Crimean Supreme Council are not entitled to hold the Supreme Council deputy mandates. Besides, there also exists a problem of those persons within the peninsula's representative bodies who do not have Ukrainian citizenship. Even Mr. Tsekov's [chairman of the Crimean parliament] deputy Frolov is a Russian citizen....

We were aware of that. However, realizing that it is necessary to tackle the Crimean problems gradually and without conflicts, we deliberately took steps that might make it possible to "conserve" the existing state of affairs. If this [Crimean] Supreme Council adopts decisions on changes in the government, which is also "conserved," this means that it consciously places itself outside the law. Here, in Kiev, it is necessary to consider the question of the legitimacy of its actions and, in particular, of those persons who approved the "historic" decision on personnel changes in the [Crimean] government. It is no secret that these decisions are unlawful.

Here in Kiev, we must say clearly and unambiguously: Until the autonomy adopts a new constitution, which will have to be approved by the Ukrainian parliament, there cannot be any changes in the Crimean Supreme Council or government. Until then there exists a status quo that nobody has the right to violate.

Social Security Minister Details Situation

WS1004110095 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 0218 GMT 10 Apr 95

["Highlights" from interview with Ukrainian Social Security Minister Arkadiy Yershov by Olha Vaulina, identified as "ER"; place and date not given—from the "Economic Review" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ER: How well does social protection legislation solve social problems?

YERSHOV: Our legislation itself is pretty good. Parliament adopted several laws on social protection of those who most badly need state support, like state support for families with dependent children, pensioners, war veterans, handicapped persons and so on. But in reality, we had to make changes to the legislation. For instance, in accordance with the law on pension support, a privileged group of pensioners has the right to get a pension worth three minimum pensions. The law also stipulates that a minimum pension must equal a minimum consumer budget that was KBV [karbovantsi] 3 million in February. It is worth remembering that a minimal pension is still KBV 120,000. Our Ministry increased it to KBV 240,000.

ER: What is the current conception of social protection and to whom does it apply?

YERSHOV: According to current conception, citizens who cannot earn their living need state social protection. Our wards include 15 million pensioners, 2.2 million handicapped persons, 1.2 million World War II veterans, Afghan war veterans, Chernobyl catastrophe victims, families with many children, elderly people, single mothers, orphans and others. The state has to provide help to all these mentioned groups. Healthy and able-bodied citizens have to care about their well-being themselves while the state has to provide the others with this opportunity.

ER: The pricing policy in the economic transition period affects, first of all, the budget of people with low incomes. Tell us about the social protection measures taken to weaken this "blow."

YERSHOV: Because of the new price increases, we have paid pensioners a monthly compensation of KBV 890,000 since Feb. 1. Currently, the Cabinet of Ministers, Parliament and the President are looking for the KBV 10 trillion needed to implement this measure.

Social Protection Ministry rayons (counties) and oblasts are working together with the State Housing and Municipal Committee to create special housing compensation services to try to weaken the blow caused by the notorious decree no. 733 by the Cabinet of Ministers. (The decree raised the cost of utilities without increasing salaries.) Citizens with a one-family-member income of less than KBV 1.73 million will be paid subsidies worth KBV 525,000 to cover municipal services' fees.

Today I find myself in sort of dire straits. For the first time during the last several years, pensioners from nine oblasts failed to get the full sum of their pensions. So now my prime headache is to improve the situation and to pay the reminder to our pensioners.

ER: Which measures is your Ministry working out now?

YERSHOV: We are working out a draft on social pension protection. It stipulates that an employee and his employer pay equal shares to an insurance company. When an employee retires, he gets money from his personal pension account, which means he is responsible for his well-being after he retires. But it is necessary to introduce salary reform for insurance mechanisms to work. As you know, every able-bodied citizen has to pay 1 percent of his salary to the Pension Fund. So, one pays more, another pays less while, as a result, now more than 40 percent of the pensioners get an equal pension. Such 'social equality' is unacceptable in this case...

ER: What have you done, to illustrate the work of the Social Protection Ministry, apart from legislative activity, pensions and subsidies?

YERSHOV: We own industrial enterprises that employ handicapped persons—enterprises that produce equipment for the disabled, special medical, publishing and tuition institutions.

The ministry supervises 280 boarding houses with 70,000 pupils. To provide them with sufficient nutrition, we own collective farms with 3,000 cows, 9,000 heads of cattle and 30,000 pigs. We provide these boarding houses with 80 percent of their meat and 75 percent of their milk. We also provide tenants of special social protection organizations with clothes. All in all, there are 1,630 enterprises with 105,000 employees in this system.

Our 32,000 nurses provide medical and home-keeping services for more than 500,000 lonely elderly people.

Currently, the problem of lonely elderly people is solved not by increasing the number of places in boarding houses but by erecting a special block of flats for them. Now we have seven such blocks with everything necessary for their comfort while staying there. But they have to pay to eat in dining rooms located right on the premises.

ER: How are laws on the status of war veterans and state support to families with dependent children carried out?

YERSHOV: War vets are my special headache. It is necessary to define more precisely what the war veteran status is to provide this group of pensioners with privileges. It was proposed to define all Ukrainians born before 1931 as war vets because the whole territory of Ukraine was occupied by fascist troops. Ukraine's population participated in the Great Patriotic War in this or that way. This provision, however, does not include those who committed crimes against their Motherland during this time.

The law on state support to families with dependent children is carried out in its full volume. The only problem concerns payments to mothers who have jobs. We have recently conducted an inspection of some enterprises where we found numerous violations, like mothers receiving money for children's needs but using it for other needs.

ER: How are social programs financed?

YERSHOV: Almost all social payments are carried out through the Pension Fund, which has a budget comprised of 37 percent enterprise taxes paid to the state budget, and 1 percent from citizen's income. Now enterprises and the Finance Ministry owe the Pension Fund KBV 11 trillion and KBV 3 trillion, respectively.

A pension is a derivative of a salary. And until the salary is changed, the pension will not be increased. The ratio between pensions and wages was 60 percent in 1992, while today it is 30 percent.

The volume of assets to the Pension Fund depends upon the profit of enterprises. It is quite clear that until our economy is out of the deep crisis, it is too early to talk about effective social protection of the most vulnerable strata of our society.

60 Percent of Kiev Residents See No Alternative to Reform

LD0804180895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1620 GMT 8 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 8 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Sixty percent of the residents of Kiev see no alternative to reform. Thirty seven percent of 430 people polled last month by the Democratic Initiatives center want the transition to free market relations to be as speedy as possible but 30 percent want the transition to be gradual.

Forty percent of the residents of Kiev will be willing to face any hardship for the sake of free market reforms. Seventy eight percent would agree to put more effort into their work in order to improve their living standards. Forty six percent of the polled would agree to earn less than they did, provided that they felt more secure.

Thirty eight percent of the polled Ukrainians agreed to run risks for the sake of possible prosperity. Sixteen percent of the polled ignored that question.

Odessa Leader Profiled; Reforms Lauded

WS1004083095 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 4 Apr 95 p 11

[Report by Heorhiy Vorotnyuk: "Ruslan Bodelan's Reasoning"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Perhaps this is not a phenomenon, but it is still an extraordinary fact: After all political, economic, and social upheavals we have been, and are still experiencing, Ruslan Bodelan is one of the few Ukrainian Communist Party high-ranking activists, who, as the saying goes, is firmly and assuredly keeping himself afloat—he is the chairman of the Odessa Oblast Council and is a Ukrainian people's deputy, and his ratings among the oblast residents are quite high.**

Ruslan Borysovych is a consistent and purposeful man—he proceeds along his own path following his own wisdom. I would say that he proceeds along the path of common sense. Every day he, as a number of other council chairmen, has to resolve a multitude of both important and minor administrative, managerial, social, and political problems. Because he believes that, while disputes as to whom, how much, and what power should be given are continuing in Kiev, councils and their executive committees have the right to assume responsibility for the situation in the regions and, of course, to take all required measures aimed at securing the regions' survival. He also has a determined goal, a particular creed—which has caused him to suffer from particularly caustic remarks—in that he wants his region to have more independence and rights. No, he does not want to become like a sovereign prince in the Black Sea region, or to turn the wheel of social development back. It is ridiculous and absurd to level such accusations at Bodelan—a man showing no sign of swaggering or temporizing. He simply acts according to his own quite adamant conviction: The state must be built not only by the upper crust of society, but also by the lower classes, by the people, just as a tree grows from the roots, and a building from its foundations: If there are strong regions, the state will also become strong.

"Let us look at the whole civilized world," Ruslan Borysovych says. "States, lands, provinces, and other territorial- administrative units everywhere have vast rights to manage the regions, and the center, as a matter of fact, only oversees the adherence to nationwide laws. What do we have? Moscow once managed everything and everywhere. And now one cannot take a step without Kiev. I am convinced that only someone from a region can efficiently, thoroughly, and in-depth analyze the local situation, and make optimum decisions in the interests of the region and the state."

To somehow break the vicious circle, the oblast council and its executive committee, at the initiative of its leader, persistently and consistently raise the issue of expanding the region's rights before the state authorities, and want to take real steps in this regard themselves. It is enough to touch upon a few such steps to become convinced of this.

They have recently concluded agreements on economic, scientific-technical, and cultural cooperation with all Ukrainian oblasts and a number of regions in Russia, Belarus, and some other countries—this is already producing the first results, as well as bringing hope. Quite laborious and fruitful work (conducted together with experts from the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development) on a project to open a credit line for small and medium-sized businesses, and on a feasibility study concerning the establishment of a network of local special economic zones is under way, though without showy superficial effects. Last year Odessa Oblast became a full member of the Assembly of East European Regions and the Association of the Danube Regions, which makes it possible to participate in various international projects, as well as to engage foreign experts in resolving the region's socioeconomic problems. The oblast is expanding cooperation and establishing ties with well- known international organizations such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, the International Financial Corporation for Supporting Private Business, and the "Eurasia" fund. At meetings with Moldovan and Romanian representatives, practical issues concerning coastal and border trade are coordinated. With the participation of the Mykolayiv and Kherson Oblast Executive Committees, a concept of the socioeconomic development of the north- western part of the Black Sea region was developed, which has been approved by the government as a foundation to draft a corresponding state program. Finally, documents—drafted by the Odessa Oblast Council—on carrying out in the oblast an economic-legal experiment, which would make it possible to use the local capabilities and reserves better, became stuck in Kiev a long time ago....

"Although the Ukrainian authorities are examining a number of our proposals, unfortunately, the matter is not moving forward," Ruslan Borysovych grieves.

"The presence of eight ports, two steamship companies, and large railroad junctions alone is a real precondition for establishing vigorous economic ties with a number of other foreign regions for Ukraine as a whole. Why should one not use this opportunity? Additionally, the western part of the Black Sea region has considerable resources for local development as well. The only thing we need is for Kiev not to tie our hands or consider regional initiatives as encroachments on its power."

Some people could say that one may be a reformer as regards future projects, which may or may not succeed, and remain a conservative with regard to current matters. I would like to advise such people to look at resolutions passed at the latest session of the oblast council, all of which, as I was told by the deputies, were inspired and drafted with the direct participation of the oblast council leader. So, here are a few examples, which, I believe, speak volumes.

While actively advocating the idea of stepping up privatization (426 companies have so far been privatized in the oblast, and this year, as the oblast executive committee has stated, three times as many companies should be privatized), Ruslan Bodelan has proposed to considerably increase the number of companies, organizations, and offices that will become oblast municipal property. Since these relate to 200 economic entities, which in general meet the oblast's demand for products and services, their new status would be quite logical. During privatization of the property of these facilities, local budgets would receive not 20 percent of the total sum coming from the sale (as envisioned for sale of state property), but 70 percent. Following a corresponding decision made at a session, the oblast council deputy chairmen for executive work attempted to resolve issues concerning granting these facilities the status of municipal property with the Kiev-based state authorities.

Everybody knows about the scope of the oblast's difficulties caused by last year's severe drought. One can state, however, that due to the oblast council's efforts there was no disaster. People have enough bread, and something to put on it. Now, the oblast executive committee is already concerned about the future: It is assisting farms in purchasing fuel, fertilizers, and seed to cope with spring agricultural work on time, and at the same time, it is taking care of the accumulation of future food reserves in the oblast. First, it precisely estimated optimum supplies of food for budget organizations in cities and rayons, and signed with city and rayon councils agreements on assistance in purchasing required food on a basis of regional contracts.

Given the dynamic reform of the agricultural sector (recently, 382 kolkhozes have been transformed into collective agricultural companies, and eight shareholding companies, 17 agricultural firms, and 3,700 farms have been established and put into operation), it will not be easy to implement all ideas, though, as Ruslan Bodelan believes, everything will proceed successfully if councils and their executive bodies act with initiative and in accord.

Health care facilities are being granted the status of independent economic entities operating according to both budget revenues and paid medical services. Additionally, it has been decided that the oblast council will become a shareholder in a joint stock pharmaceutical concern, in which it will hold the controlling interest—this will make it possible for the council not only to arrange production and purchases of required medicines, but also to stand in the path of profiteers, who are reaping profits from people's misery....

Of course, one could also describe other real steps aimed at stabilizing the socioeconomic situation in the region taken by the oblast council and its executive committee and chairman. One could also tell about, unfortunately, numerous blunders and negligence, which, by the way, Ruslan Bodelan sees and does not conceal, and which are painful to him. At the latest session he bitterly said that a number of managers, unfortunately, prefer not to resolve urgent matters, but to draft new resolutions. This was apparently the reason behind his recent decision to reduce the oblast council and executive committee administration by 21 percent. In this way, he hopes, he will manage not only to save money, but also to get rid of indifferent people unable to conduct vigorous reforms....

...Already after the last session of the oblast council, I turned the local television channel on, and heard people repeating cliches about Ruslan Bodelan's apparent actions against reforms and questioning his intentions—to put it briefly, the same dirty record. Well, the deaf cannot hear and the blind cannot see.

New Supreme Court Judges Elected

LD1204162595 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 11 Apr—The Supreme Council of Ukraine elected new Ukrainian Supreme Court judges in accordance with Article 9 of the Law on the Status of Judges. The new members of the Supreme Court were approved by secret ballot.

The new judges are: Mykola Balyuk, Valentyna Barsukova, Vasyl Filatov, Vasyl Humenyuk, Oleksandr Kiselyov, Pavlo Kolesnyk, Valentyn Kosarev, Kostyantyn Kravchenko, Viktor Kryvenko, Oleksiy Levanchuk, Viktor Marynchenko, Volodymyr Moysyk, Volodymyr Pyvovar, Ihor Samsin, Yuriy Titov, and Vyacheslav Zhuk.

Report Details 29 March Military Exercise

AU1204084195 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 8 Apr 95 p 7

[Report by Oleh Oliynyk, URYADOVYY KURYER special correspondent: "Major Maneuvers"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Regimental tactical exercises, involving combat shooting, are not too frequently included in the plans of Ukraine's Armed Forces command. They** have become too expensive, especially as concerns fuel and lubricants. In fact, there is enough ammunition and firearms, but it is a problem to deliver the personnel and the hardware to the positions and plow the training ground over in all directions.

Over recent years, such exercises in our army were held once for each new defense minister. On 29 March, V. Shmarov, Ukraine's vice prime minister and minister of defense, inspected the combat skills of soldiers at the "Honcharivskyy" training ground in Chernihiv Oblast. Students of the Academy of Armed Forces, military attaches, representatives of the local administration, headed by P. Shapoval, chairman of the Chernihiv Oblast Council, and a group of veterans of the Great Patriotic War were invited to watch the exercise.

The tank regiment under the command of Lieutenant Colonel V. Zamana was reinforced with a mechanized battalion (Lieutenant Colonel A. Kyreyev) and supported by the artillery and aviation. Military strategists explained the need to create such a powerful formation by the complexity of operational environment: "Southern" troops launched a mass offensive on the lines of the "Northern" troops. The tank regiment had to march to the area of combat actions and, following artillery preparation and aviation raids on the front line of the "Southerners," to start an offensive, break the defense lines, and occupy positions inside "enemy" territory.

Strictly speaking, this was a rather traditional task, but if one takes into account the fact that the previous training of this type was held there back in 1991, one would even want to make an allowance for shortcomings in the military skills of the soldiers. Yet, there was no need to do so.

Everything moved and fired in the right direction and in the best possible way. We could see skillful actions by the division and regiment artillery crews, well-coordinated maneuvers by the tank crews, who were supported by the crews of MI-24 helicopters and Su- 24 bombers. Specialists mentioned that the offensive launched by the "Northerners" lacked dynamism, but the general interaction between the subdivisions was high. The teams of antiaircraft missile complexes "Holka" [Needle] and "Tunguska" showed good marksmanship on the airborne target simulator.

The training tasks—to check the combat-readiness of the regiment, forces, and means of reinforcement, to further improve the commanders' skills in organizing combat actions and ensuring command of units in battle, and to develop in the personnel the necessary combat-morale and psychological qualities—were fulfilled, according to Defense Minister V. Shmarov.

The exercise involved 64 tanks, 22 armored infantry personnel carriers, 38 cannons, seven helicopters, two aircraft, and other equipment. All of these are well-known to soldiers and observers, because they were supplied to the units at the time when they were still called the Soviet Army. The years fly by and the military hardware is becoming obsolete both physically and morally.

In a conversation with the URYADOVYY KURYER correspondent, Colonel General A. Lopata, chief of the General Staff of Ukraine's Armed Forces and first deputy minister of defense, pointed out that it will be another 5-10 years before the troops can be provided with new types of weapons.

[Lopata] We are developing, but not purchasing them. Modern military technologies are well mastered in Ukraine, but organizing their series production is still out of the question. At the exhibition in Abu Dhabi, we showed our advanced tanks T-80 UD with the diesel engine—it is an excellent machine. Its production for export is possible. Ukraine's Armed Forces presently employ over 15,000 types of weapons and hardware. This is a very large number, and our industry will never be able to create closed cycles for manufacturing that arsenal. It is necessary to look for reliable partners and develop cooperation, first and foremost with Russian armorers. It is precisely Russia that today helps maintain our hardware and weapons in proper condition. We will also develop cooperation with other CIS states and with Eastern Europe."

[Oliynyk] There is much talk now about the need to cut Ukraine's Armed Forces. We know, however, that even now there is a considerable shortage of soldiers and officers in units. Isn't there a risk of cutting the army to "zero"?

[Lopata] The present number of servicemen is too large for Ukraine. Our legislators have set the numerical strength of the Armed Forces at between 0.7 and 0.8 percent of the entire population, but it wouldn't be bad to reduce this figure further to 0.6 or 0.5 percent. I think that, by the end of 1996, we will have 350,000 servicemen. As for bringing units or subunits up to strength, there may be considerable distortions associated with the infrastructure of the former Soviet Army, whose tasks were totally different. It is now necessary to redeploy the units, change the command system, and eliminate some systems—all of this will require considerable funds.

[Oliynyk] Today, we paid 110,000 karbovantsi [KBV] each for a rather modest lunch. Can an officer afford to come to the canteen on a daily basis?

[Lopata] This is too much. On the whole, our lunch costs up to K30,000. In general, officers find it better to obtain a food ration worth KBV 1.2 million, because they only have to pay KBV 100,000 for it.

The exercise ended in a festive parade of military hardware under a combat flag that the regiment had carried through the battles of the Great Patriotic War; soldiers who performed particularly well received awards.

At an improvised news conference held on the burnt-out soil of the training ground, V. Shmarov, vice prime minister and minister of defense, stressed that, in the difficult economic circumstances, the servicemen must get as much training as necessary. For this, the necessary material means are gathered and as many people as necessary are employed in order to make the training as useful as possible. The minister commented upon the combat skills, proper coordination of actions of the combat arms, and good work of commanders at all levels. In V. Shmarov's opinion, the experience of interaction between the command and local authorities in Chernihiv Oblast in the sphere of military building deserves particular attention. They jointly resolve all problems of life in the army: ecological problems, accommodation, and transfer of territories, which previously belonged to the military department. This is a comprehensive program, since the army cannot exist in isolation from its own people. Such interaction is an important means of maintaining the combat-readiness of the Armed Forces, emphasized the minister.

Governmental Commission Discusses Weapons Issues

AU1104174695 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 8 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers Press Service: "Weapons Under Control"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A few days ago, the Governmental Commission for Expert Control [UKEK] held its scheduled meeting. Representatives of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Machine Building, Military-Industrial Complex, and Conversion, the State Customs Committee, the National Academy of Sciences, and other interested departments took part. A number of topical issues were discussed, in particular the increase of financial aid, in accordance with the Nunn-Lugar amendment, within the framework of the agreement between Ukraine and the United States on assisting our state in the elimination of strategic nuclear weapons; on prevention of the proliferation of nuclear weapons of mass destruction; on improvement of the procedures for import into Ukraine or transit across its territory of aviation technology or assembly parts for the needs of civilian aviation. The members of the commission also discussed a series of problems associated with the transportation of weapons, military hardware, ammunitions, other military property, and the personnel of the 14th [Russian] Army from the Moldovan Republic to the Russian Federation across Ukraine.

Decisions were adopted on these and many other questions. In particular, it was decided during the discussion of issues associated with the import into Ukraine of rifled firearms and their sale, temporarily to stop issuing corresponding licenses.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and other interested departments were tasked with a comprehensive investigation of this [illegible] in order to prevent further aggravation of the crime-breeding situation and to establish proper control over sales and use in Ukraine of firearms and ammunitions whose import has lately considerably increased.

The Expert Technological Committee, subordinated to Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers, briefed the audience on the course of preparation for altering and supplementing the control lists of those dual-purpose [podviyne vykorystannya] goods which are subject to expert control. After the proposals by Ukrainian ministries, departments, and enterprises are generalized, this question will be considered at the next meeting of the UKEK, and relevant information will be published in URYADOVYY KURYER.

Government Team Visits Navy Yards in Crimea's Kerch

WS1204095395 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0721 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As UKRINFORM's correspondent in Kerch, Crimea, reported, on Tuesday, April 11 Valeriy Pustovoytenko, minister of the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers and the governmental officer team he leads on an assistance mission to the Crimean Autonomous Republic continued their work in Kerch with a morning round of visits to local industrial and construction entities to meet with their managers and personnel.

The itinerary brought the group to the "Albatros" factory presently undergoing the process of defense conversion. The factory's 1,500-strong personnel is reported as living from hand to mouth for both lacking military orders and difficulties in marketing the factory's not too competitive products intended for civilian applications. The latter category of goods reportedly includes kitchen mini-combines, mixers, electric meters, and so on.

The situation is different, though, at the Kerch-based "Voykov" and "Zaliv" navy yards which have some shipbuilding orders from foreign firms for the construction of vessels, including oil tankers.

The group's afternoon itinerary was supposed to bring them to Feodosiya for a familiarization visit to the local "More" ("Sea") production association.

The group was accompanied by Crimean Vice Premier Arkadiy Demydenko.

AES Official Rejects 'Contamination' Claims

AU0704172395 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 6 Apr 95 p 11

[Article by Yuriy Panachov, head of the Southern Ukrainian AES (Nikolayev Oblast) Industrial-Sanitary Laboratory: "Can Somebody Who Is Clean Soil Another Who Is Dirty, or Whose Voices Are Hiding in the Choir of Condemnation of the Atomic Electric Power Plant?"—first paragraph published in a box]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the pages of various newspapers published in Nikolayev Oblast, the Southern Ukrainian Atomic Electric Power Plant [AES] is largely portrayed as a kind of radioactive monster. There have been, for example, reports on a terrible radioactive contamination of the water in the Southern Bug River. Regarding the Tashlyk Water Reservoir, it is generally presented as a "radioactive puddle." There have been reports on radioactive contamination of agricultural products. Also, the territory of the plant is allegedly covered with radioactive waste. The AES's poisonous breath increasingly spreads across the oblast, and the people are already dying from radiation sickness. One shudders while reading this....

My work is directly associated with the AES operation. As a sanitary inspector, I am well aware of what is going on at the plant.

The newspaper articles wrote about dismantled steam-generators, which are sources of ionizing radiation and which cause great harm to the population's health. Over the period of the AES operation, 13 steam-generators became unserviceable and were dismantled. Yes, they belong to radioactive waste, but by now, all of them have been isolated from the environment and do not have a radioactive effect upon the region.

A few years ago, a territory of 50 square meters was contaminated with liquid radioactive waste. In 24 hours, the contamination was eliminated and did not cause any harm to the population.

Some articles claimed that the AES capacities had been overloaded and that the terrible radioactive water flowed from the territory of the plant. Of course, operation of the AES involves the creation of solid and liquid radioactive waste, but there are special storage places for both types of waste. In fact, they are not filled up yet and there have never been any major overflows.

As a representative of the State Sanitary Inspection, I assure the entire population of Nikolayev Oblast: If all radioactive waste storage facilities become full, we will be the first to raise the issue of closing down the AES.

I will speak specifically about the environmental contamination caused by the atomic plant. In our country, there is a concept of threshold magnitudes of radioactive effect upon living organisms. Everything below norm is not a violation and, according to experts, does not have any harmful effect upon human health. A territory is considered contaminated if radionuclides are found in its water, agricultural products, and so on.

The industrial-sanitary laboratory at the Southern Ukrainian AES studies hundreds of samples of the environment every year to determine the content of the main biologically significant radionuclides—cesium-137 and strontium-90. If limits on cesium are adhered to, this, as a rule, also ensures normal strontium content.

The "Provisional Admissible Levels (PAL) of the Presence of Cesium-137 and Strontium-90 Radionuclides in Foodstuffs and Drinking Water Set in Connection With the Accident at the Chernobyl AES," issued on 22 January 1991, is the main document specifying the normative contents of cesium-137 and strontium-90.

These PALs are effective in Ukraine, and our Ministry of Health did not cancel them. The limit of annual absorption of the radionuclides by the organism has been set by the norms of radiation safety. For cesium-137, it amounts to 444,000 becquerels a year.

I do not want to burden the readers' attention with diagrams, graphs, and so on. I will say with full responsibility that the level of radioactive contamination has not exceeded any parameters.

Last year, much was said about the inadmissibility of the blowing through of the Tashlyk Water Reservoir, because it is, allegedly, contaminated beyond all norms.

In this case, too, I will say with full responsibility: There is no radiation contamination of the water in the Tashlyk Water Reservoir. In accordance with the PAL, drinking water (I emphasize—drinking water!) should not contain more than 18.5 becquerels per liter; the present content of cesium-137 in the reservoir water is 0.09 becquerels per liter.

Quite frequently, residents of Pivdennoukrayinsk see for themselves how the Southern Bug is contaminated with untreated sewage from the Pervomaysk Meat Processing Plant and how foul smelling and turbid streams fill in the entire course of the river and flow toward Nikolayev. Or take the slime flowing down from the river banks, or domestic garbage dumped into the river by the residents of riverside settlements! Even visually, the water in the Tashlyk Reservoir is cleaner than in the Southern Bug. In winter, swans swim in the Tashlyk Reservoir.

So should the reservoir be blown through or not? Based upon results of laboratory studies, I do not see any harm that the water of the reservoir may do to the Southern Bug and, all the more so, to the health of the population. The fate of the river does not only depend upon the Tashlyk Water Reservoir, but, to a larger extent, upon the unpurified sewage that enters the water from the numerous populated areas along the river's course. A situation has taken shape in which true offenders are hiding in the joint choir of condemnation of the AES.

I am neither an ardent supporter nor a sworn enemy of the AES. When I took part in the cleanup at the Chernobyl AES after the 1986 accident, I could see with my own eyes the pernicious effect of the untamed "peaceful" atom.

Right, the atomic electric power plant should not remain outside the attention of nature-conservation organizations or the public. The operation of the AES must be under strict control. Therefore, I propose this: Let us discard all fantasies about possible explosions at the AES or radioactive contamination, and let us stop turning the AES into a "monster" and scaring people with it. As a hygienist physician, I believe that the fear that creeps into human souls causes more suffering than the AES itself.

Here are estimates of the cesium-137 content of samples collected in 1993:

Sample	Norm (becquerels per kg)	Estimates (becquerels per kg)
Drinking water	18.5	below 0.03
Hot water	18.5	below 0.03
Water in Reservoirs:		
Southern Bug River		0.8
Arbuzynka River		0.04
Tashlyk Water Reservoir		0.09
Agricultural Products:		
Tomatoes	592	0.66
Beet	592	3.15
Cucumbers	592	0.94
Peas	370	4.33
Wheat	370	1.07
Milk	370	2.9
Fish from the Tashlyk Water Reservoir	740	1.1

KBV 15 Trillion Needed To Ensure Nuclear Safety

AU1004124095 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 7 Apr 95 p 1

[Report on interview with Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, member of the parliamentary Commission for Issues of Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety, by unidentified MOLOD UKRAYINY correspondent; place and date not given: "$100 Million a Year"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "$100 million a year"—this is what Ukraine needs to maintain the safety of its nuclear power engineering, said Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, member of the parliamentary Commission for Issues of Nuclear Policy and Nuclear Safety, in a conversation with our correspondent.

As is known, Mykhaylo Umanets, chairman of the State Committee for Atomic Energy, and Serhiy Parashyn, director of the Chernobyl Atomic Electric Power Plant [AES] (the former at a briefing and the latter in a special statement for the press), refuted the "sensational information" carried by the British newspaper THE OBSERVER to the effect that the Chernobyl AES may explode any moment. In Umanets' opinion, such information is nothing other than yet another provocation by Western firms, which dream of conquering the Ukrainian nuclear technologies' market. However, in our conversation with Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy, we hardly touched upon that scandal at all, particularly because it had already been discussed in all of its aspects.

It was of interest how Ukraine is storing radioactive waste at present. Until recently, this problem was resolved in a simple manner: All the waste was sent to Russia for reprocessing. After this process stopped due to a shortage of funds, it might be of interest to learn whether those who said that, due to the shortage of facilities for safe storage of nuclear waste, Ukraine's power engineering would soon stop functioning, were right.

As Mykhaylo Pavlovskyy said, the problem exists and nobody denies this. There are still enough facilities in Ukraine for storing spent radioactive materials. At the same time, Ukraine needs at least $100 million annually to reprocess the spent radioactive materials. Besides, the chairman of the parliamentary commission stated that he was determined, during the discussion of the budget at the parliamentary session, to persuade the parliament to earmark 15 trillion karbovantsi [KBV] for the nuclear branch to ensure the safe operation of the Ukrainian AES's.

Report on Plans To Reconstruct Chernobyl Plant

WS1204130095 Kiev VSEUKRAINSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 5 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by I. Osipchuk: "Will Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant Operate for the Next 16 Years?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **If the government accepts recommendations issued by the Commission for Nuclear Policy and Environmental Safety subordinated to the president, the West will face a challenge comparable only to the attempt in 1993 to procrastinate the final resolution on the future of nuclear weapons. Ukraine's stance was really disputable then. This time however, the commission suggests the only possible and realistic way—which would still correspond to our national interests—to resolve the problems revolving around the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant [AES].**

We reported on Saturday [1 April] that the aforementioned commission recommended that the government accept the project drafted by the State Committee for Nuclear Energy [SCNE] stipulating the modernization of the Chernobyl AES, which would allow its operational lifespan to be extended for another 10 years after the replacement of technological ducts [tekhnologicheskiye kanaly]. There were discussions of an alternative proposal by the Ministry of Environmental Protection and Nuclear Safety to shut down the plant when it reaches the end of its operational life: The first power unit in 1997, the second—between the years 2000 and 2002 and the third—between 2001 and 2003.

We have obtained from confidential resources photocopies of materials presented at the session by the SCNE.

According to the materials, the shutdown of the Chernobyl AES would require around $3.7 billion. Moreover, the funds have to be acquired at all costs. After all, the construction of a new sarcophagus and the activities to put the power plant out of operation cannot be postponed. Besides that, alternative power plants have to be constructed at the same time.

"I do not believe in Western assistance"—said SCNE Chairman Mykhaylo Umanets. Unfortunately, there is clear evidence to back up his words—the most visible being the fact that only $200 million has been offered to pay for the shutdown of the power plant. Ukraine cannot afford billions [currency not specified] for the shutdown. The Chernobyl AES proposes to earn these funds.

How unsafe is the Chernobyl AES? Some $300 million invested after the accident to upgrade the plant's safety allowed for the fulfillment of 319 out of 360 recommendations by scientists from leading nuclear states. After 1986, the reactors have been operating without serious breakdowns. The level of radionuclide emissions and the [radiation] exposure level to the staff are similar to those same indicators at Russian nuclear power plants. According to SCNE calculations, the decision to shut down the Chernobyl AES will cause the departure of 90 percent of the plant's qualified staff—primarily, nuclear power engineers who have reasons to believe that they deserve a higher standard of living. Therefore, if there is no future for the plant they will find a job at other plants. It is difficult to predict the consequences of such a scenario. We can only point out that according to estimates by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the safety of any nuclear power plant is 60-percent dependent on the staff.

The question is whether the replacement of technological ducts can affect safety. The problem is that the plant is designed to operate for 30 years, while the technological ducts for 20 years. The problem with their replacement lies in the fact that there was anxiety with regard to the safety of this procedure. However, a decision was made to carry out a similar replacement at the Leningrad AES, and it proved to be the right decision. The replacement was conducted without causing any ill effects to the environment or staff. The power plant is operating normally.

The power units will be prepared for reconstruction in succession. The reconstruction of each unit will last two years. Thus, the program's implementation is mapped out through the year 2002. Consequently, as was stated in the SCNE documents, "the reconstruction will raise the safety of the power plant to a new level and will cost $600 million." Obviously, for its realization the power plant will look for commercial credits, including some from Western banks, given that the demand for money is great. I would like to point out that the materials that we have obtained definitely shed light on the statement (that came as a surprise to reporters) made by Chernobyl AES General Manager Serhiy Parashyn at the beginning of 1995, to the effect that the power plant does not need grants, and would like to receive commercial credits instead. The sum of grants (free assistance) will barely exceed $10 million.

Naturally, the construction of a new sarcophagus requires credits, too. I would like to point out that the EU has allocated ECU3 million ($4 million) for a feasibility study, which will be conducted by the "Alliance" concern of Western firms. Will the West, however, offer an adequate sum for the construction? Many people in Ukraine do not believe this. In a worst case scenario, a considerable portion of the expenditures will have to be covered by our state, and the sum amounts to hundreds of millions of dollars. The Chernobyl AES is going to fully cover the costs of the construction. In addition, the National Treasury will obtain $700 million from taxes, and the residents of Slavutych will avoid a shock resulting from the power plant's shutdown. The Chernobyl AES's estimated profit for 16 years amounts to $5.2 billion.

The power plant is going to cover the costs required to resolve the issue of dumping spent fuel, which has so far been accumulating in the plant's storage basin. Canada has allocated $3 million for adapting containers produced by the "Ontario Hydro" firm for use at the Chernobyl and Rivne power plants. Those containers are designed to withstand 40 years of storage. Canadian and Ukrainian experts are currently discussing commercial and technical offers in Kiev.

I would like to point out that the need to allocate certain funds from Chernobyl AES profits ($1.4 billion) to put the power plant out of operation, was not foreseen. Nevertheless, the implementation of the plan will postpone the need for the expenditure until the end of the first decade of the next century, when it will be time to shut down the first power unit.

Internal Factor

I would like to point out that the government should make a decision about the future of the Chernobyl AES by 10 April, which has been mentioned by the president. He did not specify what was the reason for choosing this date. Judging by his statement, the Chernobyl AES problem is primarily of a political nature, so we can presume that Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] does not want to linger with the resolution of this problem and will finally dot the "i's." Why?

We believe that the West estimates the situation, which developed during negotiations with Ukraine, as such that it has a chance to achieve what it wants by exerting pressure. The word "Chernobyl" comes out of the mouths of foreign leaders, virtually during all of our president's trips abroad. The West makes allocation of credits dependent on the shutdown of the Chernobyl AES. And finally, came the article in London's THE OBSERVER, which dumbfounded the entire world by saying that the third power unit is doomed. According to our confidential information, the leadership of the "Alliance"—on whose research, as was later revealed, the sensational publication was based—was utterly surprised by the conclusions drawn in the article. The urgently convened conference of EU commissions last Friday, was equally unexpected for them. The safety of the third power unit of the Chernobyl AES was on the agenda. We will try to obtain information on the results of that conference.

I would like to remind our readers, that the final conclusion made by the "Alliance" upon completion of the examination of the sarcophagus' condition says that the "V" power unit located between the sarcophagus and the third power unit is earthquake-proof. This power unit can withstand earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 to 8.0, and consequently, such earthquakes can do no harm to the sarcophagus and the third power unit. Therefore, this cannot be a reason for the shutdown of the third reactor. According to "Alliance," however, the third power unit will impede the utilization of the nuclear waste stored in the sarcophagus.

As it seems, funds used by the West so far cannot force Ukraine to shut down the power plant. Unconditionally, only appropriate compensation may prove the most effective tool. Meanwhile so far, only the Chernobyl AES is ready to grant funds.

Chernobyl Generating Set To Be Restored by Sep 1996

LD1004182195 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1435 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev Region [no date as received]—The Chernobyl AES [Nuclear Electric Power Station] production association has commissioned restoration work on the second power generating set disconnected in 1991. The instructions were made in accordance with the Supreme Council decision of 21 October 1993 to extend the operation of the Chernobyl nuclear power plant and the government guidelines on the continuing operation of Chernobyl AES.

The second power generating set at Chernobyl was decommissioned after its turbogenerator was destroyed by a fire in the engine room in October 1991.

Under the management's instruction, the restoration of the set is to be completed by September 1996 and the repair of equipment by December 1996.

A program to enhance the safety of the set is to be worked out and introduced prior to its restart.

Government Considers Closing Down Chernobyl AES

LD1304104795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0950 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Victor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev, 13 Apr—Ukraine intends to submit a plan for closing down the Chernobyl AES [nuclear electric power station] to G-7 member-countries. Sergey Parashin, AES director general, told today's news conference that there are plans to build a steam-gas power station near the town of Slavutich.

According to Parashin, the project will be discussed by the Ukrainian Government and representatives from the European Union, who arrived in Kiev today. According to preliminary data, the construction of the station will cost $2 billion. Parashin said that "if the West wants the Chernobyl station to be closed, it should compensate Ukraine for its closure."

Underground Nuclear Plant Planned

LD1204155795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1116 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev April 4 [date as received] TASS—"I am the first to announce a project, which envisages the construction of Ukraine's first underground nuclear thermal power plant, fitted out with a new-generation reactor. It is to be built in Slavutich," President of the trans-national "Energia" joint-stock industrial-financial corporation Ravil Abubekerov told a press conference here on Tuesday [11 April] .

"The plant, if the project is fulfilled, shall be equipped with absolutely safe and ecologically clean module reactors. It will have a capacity of one thousand megawatts. The station will be built fifty metres beneath the earth's surface. All the processes will be automatically controlled. Workers will descend underground once in two or even four years to replace the spent fuel. Four such reactors are already in operation in Russia," Abubekerov stated. "

"According to the assessments of Russian experts," he added, "underground nuclear thermal stations will serve as an alternative for the now used nuclear power plants in the coming 100-150 years. The 'Energia' concern, taking part in which are businessmen from Ukraine, Russia, USA, and Turkmenistan, also offers projects for the construction of steam-gas stations in Chigirin and Kiev."

Economic Issues

World Bank Grants Credit To Update Power Stations

LD1204192695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 12 (Interfax - Ukraine)—The World Bank board has decided to grant Ukraine a credit of $114 million to upgrade its hydroelectric power stations.

The credit will be granted for 17 years, including a five-year privileged period, at a floating interest rate.

The World Bank mission in Kiev issued a press release to state that the project, estimated at $190.2 million, also involves Switzerland, Canada and Norway which granted state credits to purchase equipment.

The Ukrainian government will act as the loan-taker. Ukraine's joint-stock company Dneprgidroenergo and National Dispatcher Center will receive the profits from the credit.

Within the first five years, eight main stations on the Dnepr will be upgraded, necessitating 57%of the funds. Another 2%will be used to install monitoring systems at the dams and still another 38%to upgrade communications, control and oversee equipment. The rest will be used for technical assistance.

The project is expected to be accomplished within 15 years.

Once implemented, the project will allow to extend the stations' technical life for up to 20 years. The energy output will grow as the production costs decline.

Details of New State Foreign Economic Policy

WS1204070395 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by S. Sokolovskiy: "Ukraine Is Ready To Seize World Markets, However, on Paper"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Practically during the entire history of independent Ukraine, its foreign economic policy was chaotic. Activities in this sector were regulated by governmental resolutions, decrees, legal acts [podzakonnyy akt], and instructions that really complicated the situation. Back in 1991, there was a draft of a single policy for foreign economic activities. The final version of this foreign economic concept was approved by the Cabinet of Ministers only last week and it was submitted for consideration by the Supreme Council. According to expert estimates, its implementation will allow Ukraine to make a breakthrough in its foreign economic activities.**

What are the principle tenets of this concept? First of all, it is a system that provides for a program-targeted approach toward foreign economic activities. Second, it contains market principles of economic development that address economic security and juridical equality of all entities that manage foreign economic activities. Third, the supremacy of law was officially declared. Finally, prospects for Ukraine's export policy were specified. By the way, according to experts, Ukraine's exports could total 45-50 percent [as published] in the foreseeable future and that amount approaches the level of developed countries.

This concept will be implemented in several stages. The first stage—or the development under the crisis period of 1995-96—envisages preserving export volumes and stabilizing critical imports. "Every effort must be made not to lose markets and to simultaneously provide our enterprises with everything necessary," pointed out Ihor Podolev, first deputy minister of foreign economic relations. This policy works well: In view of a sharp drop in production, Ukraine's exports have only been slightly reduced.

The next stage—a gradual decrease in the negative balance—includes the years 1997-2000. Conditions for "not being in debt" are set right now: Trends in the development of exports are changing. In particular, the shift of groups of products to a group of highly liquid goods has begun. The Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations [MVES] does not oppose lifting all barriers for exporting such goods. The search for new markets must be stepped up. Assistance—by the way, not only in the form of tax breaks—must be rendered to exporters.

The final stage, the economic development after the year 2000, envisages the full withdrawal of the state from centralized exports, except for perhaps exporting strategic materials.

One important issue is the economic security of the state. Ukraine's dependence on imported energy resources is a vivid example of this case. There is an objective limit for such independence. According to world practice, the level of dependence is some 25 percent from one supplier. Even though such figures are unrealistic for us (our dependence on Russia and Turkmenistan is over 90 percent), the concept also stipulated a reduction in the level of dependency. Foreign economic priorities were also specified.

The CIS and the Baltic states have been and remain the primary direction for the next 20-30 years. This creates a necessary base for the next breakthrough. By the way, this process is common for all of us: According to MVES expert estimates, there are signs of investment from those regions. The next direction is Europe, first of all, the EU and G-7. Our country actively seeks an associated membership in the EU. According to estimates, this process will take some seven years. Germany, Italy, Spain, and Greece, however, are currently actively cooperating with Ukraine. We maintain contacts with our former CEMA partners. In Asia, we pay special attention to Turkey, our strategic partner in resolving energy problems. The Persian Gulf countries and Iran are next. Multilateral investment projects pertaining to the reconstruction and development of Ukraine's enterprises are being drafted. China and the countries of East and Southeast Asia are another issue. There, Ukraine has a primary interest in exporting its technologies, and its partners—in exporting their goods. As Ihor Podolev pointed out, due to its positive trade balance with China, Ukraine could settle roughly 25 percent of its debts to Russia; that implies that our debts to Russia could have been 25 percent greater!

Regarding imports, a pressing problem remains trying to maintain a minimum level of efficiency in contracts, as well as to reduce the number of barter transactions, which account for 58 percent of all contracts.

The further development of concessional activities in Ukraine was specified as particularly promising. The interest of foreign investors in such activities is great. The concept also considered our energetic breakthrough with the World Trade Organization [WTO], or former GATT. Ukraine in this aspect is six to eight months ahead of Russia and it has a real chance to become a WTO member this year. This will naturally become an additional stimulus for the development of foreign economic activities in Ukraine's enterprises. The implementation of the MVES concept in collaboration with involved ministries and departments—if nothing prevents it—will enable Ukraine to become a genuinely powerful exporter of its goods to world markets.

Kuchma Sets Up Office To Draft Industrial Policy Guidelines

LD1004220495 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1440 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The Ukrainian president has issued a directive setting up a commission to work out state industrial policy guidelines for 1996-2000. The commission is headed by Economy Minister Roman Shpek.

The commission is authorized to employ experts from public executive bodies as well as scientists and request necessary information from relevant sources.

The commission is instructed to submit draft guidelines on the state industrial policy in 1996-2000 by 1 July 1995. The Cabinet of Ministers is to provide the commission with necessary funds.

Kuchma Releases Deputy Energy Minister From Post

LD1004220895 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ukrainian president has released Ivan Ivanovych Mahda from the post of deputy minister of energy and electrification on account of his full-time occupation as a people's deputy of Ukraine.

Trade Union Confederation Holds Congress, Sets Goals

WS1104084095 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 0732 GMT 11 Apr 95

[From the "Current Events" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As reported by UKRINFORM's labor correspondent, the recently created National Confederation of Ukrainian Labor Unions has concluded its first congress in Kiev, the Ukrainian capital. Delegates to the congress discussed the program of activities of the newly-created confederation. The congress concluded its activities by organizing a roundtable talks on "Judicial Reform in Ukraine and Legal Enlightenment of Ukrainian Workers." Senior officials from the Ukrainian Ministry of Justice, the Internal Ministry, the Prosecutor-General's Office, and the High Court of Arbitration took part in the roundtable talks. The main task before the confederation, according to its founders, is to protect the economic and social interests of its members and support "genuine" social and economic reforms in the country.

Dnepropetrovsk Managers Warn of Economic 'Abyss'

WS1204135795 Dnepropetrovsk DNEPROVSKAYA PANORAMA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by V. Yaburov: "We Are Falling Into an Abyss"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **"We are falling into an abyss"—thus think the managers of Dnepropetrovsk Oblast companies. They demanded at the City Executive Committee's conference that urgent steps be taken. Yes, but what kind of steps?**

Many sharp and convincingly passionate opinions were expressed at the conference. For instance, from the mouth of G. Grozitskiy, council chairman of the Entrepreneurs and Businessmen's Association, they sounded as follows: "The national economy is unmanageable. Industry is being strangled by the legislature. All undertaken measures are aimed at patching up holes, instead of providing a decent standard of living."

There is no use arguing, given that the quoted numbers concerning the drop in commodity production indicate that we are rapidly falling into an abyss.

Then, there were many words about the protection of individuals' rights, weighted laws, and wise legislators, who, unfortunately, are still hard to find. In a few words, the recent law on taxes and the edict on payments evoked great resistance. Shortly speaking, it means that the state is strangling companies and collecting double revenues. The bureaucrats have taken good care of themselves by decreeing that 70 to 80 percent of profits will be deducted in their favor.

Incidentally, the Good Lord only wanted a tithe. Here, however, they are taking every last thing. How then, is it possible to lift the state out of its crisis? Some 70 percent of enterprises are insolvent. This is an anti-miracle! Capital is being accumulated in private hands, abroad, whereas working people do not receive even minimum wages. Are the managers telling lies? Are they demoralizing their staffs? Are they ruining their enterprises for the sake of low-cost privatization? The managers assured that this was not true.

V. Tretyak, council chairman of the "Dnepropolymermash" oblast joint stock association; Yu. Kovrov, deputy manager of the Dnepropetrovsk electrical transmission network; V. Tyutin, manager of the "Dneproshyna" joint stock company; V. Grytsan, manager of the "Orel" joint stock company; "Vesna" concern President N. Maksimov; DMZ [expansion unknown] General Manager M. Filkin; Supreme Council Deputies A. Ryabchenko and V. Merkushov, as well as other participants in the briefing were making quite sharp statements. All this boils down to the fact that "there are crowds of academicians, but nobody knows what to do." "The government and the president have forgotten about nourishing and clothing the people." "There is no clear concept for developing the economy and its priorities, and with the present law, it is sheer absurdity."

Generally speaking, the Supreme Council, the president, and the Cabinet of Ministers were addressed with many serious warnings. As City Council Chairman N. Shvets stressed, the principal thing is to direct our entire potential toward resolving specific tasks, instead of wasting energy on internecine conflicts.

Minister on Policies in Agriculture

WS0704131595 Kiev SILSKE ZHYTTYA in Ukrainian 30 Mar 95 pp 1, 4

[Interview with Minister of Agriculture and Food Yuriy Karasyk by UKRINFORM correspondent Halyna Solyanyk; place and date not given: "We Were Reasonable Enough Not To Ruin Agricultural Production. It Is Now a Guarantor of Ukraine's Revival"; first paragraph is SILSKE ZHYTTYA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] Seemingly, March days for the minister of agriculture and food are like an unending marathon in unbearable heat. The preparation of a parliamentary resolution on supporting the agricultural sector, seminars, conferences, Collegium sessions, trips... Possibly, the point is not in a specific person—the post is just "hot." Harvest is not easy to attain—one has to wait for results until the fall. Much depends on the spring readiness. Thus, before uttering the phrase that makes the headline, Yuriy Karasyk will "press with a hot iron" on spring problems of Ukrainian agrarians. The first question could not address any other problems than those.

[Solyanyk] **Yuriy Mykhayiovych, what is the situation in agriculture at the beginning of spring?**

[Karasyk] A relatively mild winter and a very early arrival of a warm spring have worked favorably on winter crops, and the prognosis is better than we expected. Essentially, we were preparing for a rather large resowing campaign. However, the situation with winter crops has improved over the last two months and, for all intents and purposes, does not worry us anymore. It must be said, though, that a sharp increase in temperature, especially in the south, quickly drains moisture—the soil dries and its biological processes do not keep pace with the dynamics of spring changes.

On the whole, one must proceed from the fact that there is no decrease in the total area of grain crops this year—it covers 13.3 million hectares. Industrial crops and vegetables account for 3.7 million hectares, fodder crops—for 10 million.

During his trip to southern oblasts, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma has personally observed that agricultural production does not shrink. Kolkhozes take care to improve the quality of seeds, and ingeniously determine the structure of [sowing] areas. All efforts are oriented toward increasing production, especially of grain, beets, sunflowers, and rape, that is, those crops, which are in high demand by consumers, and bring us profits in hard currency. Conditions are being created for selling our products both at the exchange and abroad.

It is noteworthy that many kolkhozes have no problems with supplies of fuel and spare parts. This primarily refers to those collective farms that gathered a rich harvest last year and, having sold it, stored an appropriate amount of all things necessary for the spring.

Unfortunately, a difficult situation is developing in the southern zone and Polissya. Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, and, especially, Zaporizhzha Oblasts have virtually no winter crops; these regions have suffered from a drought for the third year now, and have no products to sell. There is a large deficit of fodder there, hence problems arise with the production of milk and meat and, as a consequence, there are problems with money.

I would like to note that presidential decrees and Supreme Council resolutions have to a certain extent reassured producers. There were heated arguments in 1992 as to whether collective farms should exist or not. In 1993, due to favorable natural conditions, Ukraine reaped the best harvest ever in its history. If relations in agriculture had been regulated, we would have been able to protect ourselves for two years, and lived through 1994 without special difficulties.

[Solyanyk] **The situation with winter crops, a favorable spring, reserves of fuel, motivation for work—these certainly are important factors. However, one also needs fertilizers and chemicals to protect the plants.**

[Karasyk] It was resolved to supply fertilizers through technical credits. In other words, a producer will be given credits in the form of fertilizers. Nonetheless, the producer will be the sole owner of the final product; the producer, not the state, will be disposing of grain. This is a very big boost to agriculture. There is a policy behind this: Ukraine's revival should begin with a revival of the countryside, of agricultural production.

[Solyanyk] **Support means allotting credits?**

[Karasyk] There are different ways: credits, prepayments. However, this year is distinctive because we halted the issue of credits. Therefore, we cooperate with all ministries and look for our own resources. Although one cannot manage without credit money, we are not going to issue considerable credits because later on, like a wave, they will wash the agricultural sector back. We are working out a mechanism of auctions as well as futures so we can spot sales.

Even though the agricultural sector is considered most conservative, life itself forces us to reform it. As you remember, the last session of the Council of Regions took place in Vinnytsya Oblast, taking as an example the

"Lypivka" corporation, where the agrarian relations have already been reformed. Thirty six separate enterprises with independent accounts were established there; a loss-preventing mechanism is already operational. Representatives of all Ukraine have seen that the results in the "Lypivka" are considerably better than in any other kolkhoz that was not reformed.

Or, let us take, for instance, the sugar industry.

Nobody could even fathom, let alone concede, that there may be no state contract for sugar. Nevertheless, this was attempted last year, and everybody saw that those who reprocessed raw material for sugar and held it for a time, have now been provided with fertilizer, pesticides, and money.

Of course, it is difficult to change established ways. However, the entire procurement system must be reformed as soon as possible.

At the same time, why are we such supporters of state contracts for grain, seeds, and breed livestock? Because the state contracts are guarantors of prepayments, guarantors of production. Even more so now that we are in a transition period, and one cannot manage without state contracts this year. Today, this is a policy, too. It intends to avoid a situation where granaries are full, whereas Ukraine is not; or a situation, where all the grain has been sold—this, too, can happen, since there are many buyers.

[Solyanyk] **There have been reports that the readiness for field spring work was achieved primarily by the kolkhozes that had undergone a reform. What does this mean?**

[Karasyk] First, there are primarily the kolkhozes that possess their own processing enterprises and shops, that is, operate in a closed cycle. They do not sell raw materials, but finished products, and have money for gasoline and diesel fuel or procure them through barter exchange.

These kolkhozes have more or less made investments to procure German or U.S. harvesters, pesticides, and technologies. Naturally, the forms of ownership and management at these collective farms have been changed, as well. At some of these farms, shares have been distributed among employees, each member of the working collective knows his/her part of the property and dividends.

Laborers often unite in groups of farmers, constituting independent subunits with separate accounts in the bank. A collective farm sometimes consists of 15-20 independent subunits for different areas of activity—fodder production, technical service, chemical service. These are new models of farming.

[Solyanyk] **Regarding production, there are already cases where kolkhozes with processing workshops are facing problems in selling their products. What is the reason for this?**

[Karasyk] First, the level of such workshops is not always sufficient for providing competitive products. Second, relatively small kolkhozes acting alone have no prospects on the market—their loss to powerful processing enterprises is virtually unavoidable. Also it is a fact that shops have been bought up, privatized. Kolkhozes with their products are simply not being allowed on the market. Therefore, it is necessary to unite into companies, associations, and corporations, and to fight monopolies.

We are working out a mechanism to introduce a state policy in this respect, too—with regard to the restructuring of production, as well as the processing and selling of agricultural products.

There are faults both on the part of the ministry and the working collectives. Where the privatization of meat processing and dairy plants was accomplished with the participation of meat and milk producers, there was no need to build a processing workshop at every kolkhoz; in addition, this could have brought economic losses. One must privatize large enterprises that are already operational. In places, where they are located far from producers, the kolkhozes have to build [processing] lines and workshops.

[Solyanyk] **It is comforting to know that strong collective farms have been preserved, that they have prevented Ukraine from collapse. However, how is private farming doing?**

[Karasyk] We already have over 30,000 private farms owning 500,000 hectares of land. This year, the Dnipropetrovsk and Mykolayiv farmers associations have asked for state contracts. In other words, the farmers have already realized that it is better to cooperate with the state.

I think that private farming will continue to develop. However, in my opinion, it should follow the "Dnipropetrovsk" way. As of today, 10-15 percent of collective farms are unprofitable. These are the farms needing "farmerization": Let them unite on a new basis. This should be done not by distributing tiny land plots to private owners and making them individual farmers, but by making them a "package" of a collective farm.

This is exactly the basis, on which two mountainous rayons in Lvov Oblast resolved their land issue. However, collective farms continue to exist. They hold agricultural equipment, and provide farmers with paid services. In Ukraine, in contrast to other post- socialist states, we have been reasonable enough not to ruin collective farms, and now we have something to reform.

[Solyanyk] **One can observe today that positions in the agrarian policy, and opinions about the directions of agricultural development are either undetermined or unassured. On the one hand, there are desperate arguments supporting the need for privatization and the right of a private owner to freely dispose of his land; on the other, there are unexpected statements that land cannot be sold**

or bought. There has even been a catch phrase circulating in Ukraine: "No land will be sold at the Bessarabka market [market place in Kiev]..."

[Karasyk] Incidentally, this was heard from the president's lips. There is no contradiction, as testified by his decree. Let us suppose that a land ownership certificate is granted to a collective agricultural enterprise. Today I am a member of this enterprise, but tomorrow I decide to quit. I take my land and quit. I can sell it, or lease it. However, I can only do this following a resolution by the collective. In other words, I cannot decide by myself to whom and on what terms I will sell my land. At this stage, this is very important. In the future, life will show what to do.

[Solyanyk] **Taking into account that today we have state contracts for a limited range of products, is there no fear that, for instance, sugar may be bought up at the exchange by Russian buyers? The same relates not only to sugar.**

[Karasyk] There is no fear at the initial stage. Today it is settled in such a way that both the exchange and the auctions could not operate without regulation. The balance has been set, and is being checked. The exchange was authorized to sell 1 million tonnes of sugar, 5 million tonnes of grain, and 1 million tonnes of sunflower seed. The above-mentioned amount accounts for 15 percent of total production. This amount makes it possible to secure the agricultural sector with material and technical resources.

It is interesting that the auctions are being held simultaneously while working out their mechanisms. The scopes of these auctions are increasing. Our goal at the exchange today is to sell not only readymade products, but also future crops. One needs, of course, tactics here; we have to take some risks. A buyer of a future crop should be granted advantages under terms of a forward (future) contract—for example, to buy one tonne of wheat for $73, and sell it for $80 at the exchange.

If the exchange replaces barter trade, this will be advantageous both for the state with its regulation and for the producers. A system will be operational—we have sales and, consequently, taxes. This is why we want to work out a concept of Ukraine's agrarian exchange.

[Solyanyk] **Yuriy Mykhaylovych, your ministry today is not what it used to be—it does not divide, it does not distribute, and it does not dictate. This is a moral burden on your shoulders. Are you an optimist?**

[Karasyk] You see, being a pessimist, I would not chair the ministerial office. Since I chaired it, I have to work. I see that much can be done, and that there are people who work together.

Farmers' Association Head on Reform, Tasks

WS0704113095 Kiev KYYIVSKA PRAVDA in Ukrainian 4 Apr 95 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Farmers' Association President M. Shkarban, chairman of the Ukrainian Peasant Democratic Party, by V. Strekal; place and date not given: "The Land Loves the Master, Someone Who Would Make the Best Use of It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Strekal] At present, different forces have different approaches toward land reform. The Ukrainian president's edict on accelerating land reform in rural areas, so to speak, was to have crossed all the "i's." The edict was based on the sharing of capital stock and land. What is your opinion about those problems?

[Shkarban] Both my partners and I support the edict, although we would like to see a more expansive document addressing all the problems. We have a number of enforceable acts dealing with reform in rural areas, however, there is no distinct concept. The aforementioned edict is an attempt to draft such a concept, which is good. However, we have a negative attitude toward the mechanism and the procedure for implementing what has been planned. The point is that the entire responsibility has shifted onto general conferences [of shareholders]. This means that either the reformers do not see the ultimate goal or they do not know where the reform will lead us, which amounts to the same thing in terms of consequences. If the path of sharing the stock is to be followed, I would like reform to be targeted toward specific individuals. Those individuals should have the right to decide whether to stay within a collective body or to work independently.

[Strekal] The edict does address the voluntary nature of such decisions, though.

[Shkarban] Not exactly. First, it stipulates that land will be allocated to collective bodies and then, those bodies will decide whether it should be shared or not. Only then, people will be able to choose whether they want to work in a group or individually. We believe that this method preserves the old system of labor relations. Besides, is it wise to draft a document about one large body of land, and then start sharing the latter the next day?

We would suggest a contrary process. Every farmer should be given the right to choose between group and individual labor. Land should be allocated to "individuals" in accordance with appropriate norms, and whatever is left should be transferred to collective bodies. In that case many villages in which large farms have their brigades would be transformed into independent entities, and landowners residing in small villages would transfer land to efficient owners (I am referring to collective farms, good cooperatives, and competent farmers). They would work on land using their own methods. If reform were oriented toward individuals, it would advance more rapidly. Meanwhile, due to the suggested mechanism, it will fail altogether.

Another erroneous approach is the fact that we do not officially know the drafters of the concept. We know that Petro Sabluk, Viktor Mesel-Veselyak, Pavlo Haydutskyy, and other scientists worked on it. However, the document was finally signed by the president, and the president will be criticized in the event of failure. Of course, if the president represented a party, that party would be responsible for everything. The president, however, is not a party member and his team remains in the shadow.

[Strekal] Thus, you believe that the suggested system of sharing land may fail?

[Shkarban] It is not just a belief; I am sure it will fail. Just look at what is going on. Eighteen kolkhozes refused to divide land among shareholders in Cherkasy Oblast, Chyhyrynskyy rayon; the sharing of land is not being carried out in almost half of Poltava Oblast kolkhozes. My forecast is: Some 70 percent of kolkhozes will not share their land. You might say that there are data to the effect that more than 90 percent of kolkhozes have already done that. That is true, but they have shared various forms of stock, not land. Something resembling the sharing of land was going on before the edict, thus, virtually illegally. To really share land one has to take into account an endless number of nuances, which is a complex issue in both methodological and physical terms. If the sharing was carried out without a precise mechanism, it is unlikely that anybody will be able to break with a collective body, because every individual's destiny will depend on the will of other people rather than the law.

I suggest a way that would turn people into masters of their lives. If someone cannot make a final decision about their future (and there are many such people), they should delegate their rights to their managers. Managers should become chairmen of control councils, while specific branches should be run by specialists, who know what they are doing. Through managers, the property of the members of cooperatives should be transferred to those specialists. It would be easy in such cases to either break with a collective body or set up several new cooperatives on its basis. Everything will depend on individual employees' will.

Briefly speaking, the principal issue is: Collective labor must go hand in hand with private ownership.

[Strekal] You should agree that this is not a simple theory. Neither is it unquestionable, and it might not be accepted by everyone.

[Shkarban] It probably is. However, we are sure that collective farming will be a transitional stage, given that individual interests are more profound than collective ones. Of course, the process of transition to individual farming will be quite extensive. However, we already have farmers who own land plots of 100 to 200 hectares and more. Their ranks will be constantly growing due to the fact that efficient owners (individual farmers, cooperatives, or groups of like-minded people) will purchase shares, that belong to pensioners and other villagers.

There are concerns to the following effect: If land is transferred to efficient owners, what will happen to other people in rural areas?

[Shkarban continues] There should be no fear. Let us take the United States, for instance, whose rural population amounted to 80 percent [of the entire population] in 1880. At present, villagers (including the entire sector of agricultural services) constitute 27 percent of the U.S. population, while farmers and their families constitute only 4 percent. A similar process should take place in Ukraine, too. A distinct infrastructure should be created in villages. I expect that the current figure of 5 million Ukraine's agrarians will be reduced to 1 million active workers, which, in fact, is the actual current figure. Meanwhile, the number of people involved in procurement, processing of products, and various agricultural services will increase. This, however, should be a gradual process developing in tandem with an increase of the "critical mass" of efficient farmers. The latter will establish appropriate cooperatives with various kinds of specialization.

[Strekal] You have explained your theory, so to speak, your vision of the development of the agroindustrial sector. The actual development, however, is currently going along a somewhat different track. The development of individual farms as a possible alternative to collective ones is being hampered by a number of things. How would you assess that process?

[Shkarban] Before 1995, I observed the positive role played by the [individual] farmers' movement in economic reform. Watching the activities of politicians and government officials, however, I have arrived at the conclusion that reformers do not regard [individual] farms as the production, entrepreneurial groundwork. That is why the farmers' movement has slowed down. Smaller funds are being allocated for its development. I realize that in general, rural areas are currently receiving too little. Let me cite certain figures. In 1994, a sum of money was earmarked from the national budget to cover all expenditures of the Ministry of Agricultural Production constituting 0.484 percent of the GDP. The estimated figure for 1995 amounts to 0.522 percent of the GDP. Meanwhile, 0.029 percent of GDP was earmarked in 1994 to support individual farming; and the figure for 1995 is 0.013 of the GDP, which is a substantial decrease. In addition, the funds earmarked in 1994 were much smaller than in 1993. Some 90 percent of the construction of social facilities in collective farms is covered by the state, while the corresponding figure for individual farms is 15 percent. Thus, individual farmers have to take care of themselves, for they have been left unattended.

At the same time, individual farms are already demonstrating their efficiency. Kolkhozes and sovkhozes for instance, have decreased severalfold the production of potatoes, while this production has increased in the individual sector. In other areas of production, too, output has declined in collective farms, and has seen an upsurge in the individual sector. The individual system has not been affected by the crisis.

[Strekal] I do not quite agree with you. You should know that the increase in production in the individual sector was due to strenuous manual labor on the plots of land allocated to city residents. This is torture, not production. Can it serve as an example?

[Shkarban] I do agree that labor is strenuous and manual. Yet there is a trend toward an increase.

[Strekal] I think that the future of rural areas does not lie in that kind of labor on small patches of land. How do you imagine the future of the agroindustrial sector?

[Shkarban] If reformers do not see the distinct purpose of their reform, the latter will develop in a complex evolutionary way. Figuratively speaking, we are using methods of an ignorant surgeon who, having cut a patient open, starts looking up in manuals what to do next. Thus, we should clearly see our goal, and create really equal conditions for collective farms and individual farmers. I am far from thinking that individual farmers will be able to feed the nation right now. Declines, too, may occur in individual farming, because new ideas do not win at once. To secure the future of rural areas more attention should be paid today to urgent problems—replacement of worn-out equipment, supplies of fertilizers and fuel.... We do not have a system for retraining specialists, although it did exist in the past. If we address the problems of today, and if we have a well-considered verified concept of reform, the future of our villages will be radiant and calm.

Belarus

Parliament Ratifies Friendship Treaty With Russia

LD1204203295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 12 (Interfax-West)—The Belarusian parliament ratified the treaty on friendship and cooperation with Russia today.

The treaty was signed by the two countries' presidents during the visit of Russian President Boris Yeltsin to Minsk last winter.

A total of 197 deputies voted for ratification and one against, with four abstentions.

In the treaty Belarus and Russia confirm their intention to develop friendly relations proceeding from mutual respect of state sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of borders.

The two countries will also coordinate their activities in the military sphere in accordance with separate agreements.

In case of an armed attack on one of the signatories or in case of a threat of such an attack Russia and Belarus will conduct consultations and undertake other measures in accordance with their commitments under the treaty on collective security and other agreements.

In accordance with the treaty, none of the signatories will admit that its territory be used in prejudice for another signatory.

Russia and Belarus agreed to carry out on their borders with third countries measures for ensuring security of each other. The Russian-Belarusian border will be open.

The treaty provides for the two countries coordinating the guidelines for the economic reforms, developing integration between them, creating conditions for forming single economic space. For these purposes Russia and Belarus will coordinate their financial, monetary-credit, budget, currency, investment, price, tax, payment and customs policy.

Eighteen deputies-members of the Belarusian opposition People's Front did not take part in the voting. They called a hunger strike protesting the intention of President Oleksandr Lukashenka to hold a referendum.

Compromise 'Impossible' Between President, Parliament

LD1204133795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By BELINFORM-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk April 12 TASS— Under the present circumstances, a compromise between the Belarusian president and the legislature on a referendum is impossible, Vladimir Levchik, chairman of the parliamentary commission on state construction, said in an interview with BELINFORM here on Wednesday.

The Belarusian parliament instructed this commission on Tuesday to represent its side at a conciliatory commission with the president's representatives.

Commission members drafted several proposals, enabling the sides to pull out of the legal crises which developed as a result of setting by legislators a date for the referendum and rejecting three questions proposed by the president.

Commission members expressed a desire to meet personally President Alyaksandr Lukasheka and to discuss ways out of the deadlock. However, such a meeting did not take place.

Levchik said that "a compromise is now evidenlty impossible" after the latest developments which took place in Minsk last night and this morning.

President Lukashenka Interviewed on Referendum

LD1204160995 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1110 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Interview with Belarus President Alyaksandr Lukashenka by two unidentified correspondents in Minsk—live; From the "Author's Channel - in the First Person" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Lukashenka] There are many provocations today in the Republic of Belarus and in Russia over the referendum. You recall the four questions. Two of them concern the Russian language—giving it a status equivalent to our Belarusian language and integration with Russia. This may be a bit hard for our team, but we promised this to people at the election and we proposed this referendum. The Supreme Soviet took the decision that the referendum would be held on 14 May. And I guarantee you that whatever they try to do to hold back this referendum on specific questions, it will go ahead on precisely those four questions, two of which, as I promised the people, will be about Russia. I think that we have had more than enough reservations about people, more than enough cutting to the quick.

On behalf of Belarus, I assure the listeners of Russia, our brothers in the Russian Federation, that Belarus will do everything it can to avoid the shame which visited us—I use the word in quotation marks—our peoples recently.

[Correspondent] Why is it in the President's view that the Supreme Soviet has not yet given up its powers, and why is it opposed to the referendum?

[Lukashenka] Who will just give up power? Leanid, you know perfectly well that not only the Supreme Soviet but other authorities, executive authorities, of course, do not simply give up power. Individual MPs, maybe many of them, in our parliament, despite their statements and assurances to give up powers, although they long ago expired—recently there has been a very bad, negative trend; you probably noticed yesterday that some people of the BPF [Belarusian People's Front] opposition party - they are not numerous in parliament, a couple of dozen - nevertheless, they started a hunger-strike yesterday. [sentence as heard] They took that step because they disagree with the president on the referendum. And these provocations are still continuing. There are threats of exploding something, and subverting things, and so on. There is more than enough fuss over this; such a small bunch of people can still raise quite a row, especially from the rostrum of the Supreme Soviet. And these people are against the referendum. But according to the Constitution, the Supreme Soviet sets only the date of a referendum, and it has set it. All the rest is up to the president—what questions to ask. He is raising these four questions, and the referendum will be held and those four questions will be posed.

[Correspondent] Alyaksandr Rygoravich, another question—many journalists are asking this question now: Tell me, will the Supreme Soviet be dissolved by presidential decree? Is that possible?

[Lukashenka] You know, the term of office of the Supreme Soviet has expired. I am being very strongly pressured into dissolving this Supreme Soviet. Who will gain from confrontation with the president at the new elections? First and foremost this concerns the opposition I spoke about. Although they are not numerous, they are noisy. You know it very well. So, I would not like to go for this—although their term expired two and a half months ago, and they extended their term. I would not like to go for this confrontation by stopping the powers of the Supreme Soviet by decree.

I must tell you that I declared the day before yesterday in the Supreme Soviet that if they violate the Constitution again, then I shall be forced to suspend the powers of the Supreme Soviet. And if this destabilization comes from the supreme legislative body—we have seen it already starting—there remain two days of work. I do not want in any way to destabilize the situation.

Right after the broadcast here, the Supreme Soviet deputies have asked the President to come to the Supreme Soviet in connection with this incident, this hunger-strike and so on. So, today I have to visit our parliament. Well, I think that the majority of MPs are sober-minded, and I think that they will complete this lengthy political marathon with dignity.

[Correspondent] What powers will the referendum give you, Mr. President, apart from the possibility and right to dissolve the Supreme Soviet?

[Lukashenka] You know, there are no other questions about powers there. The referendum will be of a mandatory nature, and if our people respond Yes to all the questions, then Russian will have the same status as Belarusian. Today approximately 85 percent of the population of the Republic of Belarus want this. In all regions of our republic we shall have a huge, legal, constitutional opportunity for normal relations with the Russian Federation. And no-one will later be able to reproach the president that he is damaging the dear homeland [preceding two words in Belarusian] or Belarus. We shall have an absolutely new set of symbols, which today, especially on the eve of the 50th anniversary of VE Day, are not [as heard] accepted by the majority of our people, especially people of the older generation, since our coat of arms is absolutely identical to the coat of arms of Lithuania. [passage omitted]

As for powers to dissolve parliament, parliament has the right to impeach the president, so why does the president not have the same right, as a balance? But the people will decide, you understand. If the people say No, Yelena Nikolayevna [name of journalist], then that's how it'll be. I am not being insistent here, and I am not even expressing opposition, you know. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] President Leonid Danylovych Kuchma of Ukraine will be on the Presidential Hour on 17 April. I invite you, Alyaksandr Rygoravich, to put a question to Leonid Danylovych. [passage omitted]

[Lukashenka] I shall put one specific question to Leonid Danylovych. Dear Leonid Danylovych, we are all of the one Slav root. When will we start acting as one, going in the same direction? I do not deny that everyone has their own special ethnic features, but we promised unity to our peoples. When shall we three together give an example to the whole community of the former Soviet Union how things should be done, to ensure that we are not divided on ethnic lines, and—forgive me for this crude word—to ensure that we are not destroyed by economic or other methods. When shall we walk together? You can put that question to Leonid Danylovych, but it was not my idea, it was yours. [passage omitted].

Hryb, Lukashenka Meet on Referendum Issue

LD1204170595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Minsk, April 12 (INTERFAX-WEST)—Belarusian President Lukashenka will insist on holding a referendum on May 14, Parliamentary Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb told journalists on Wednesday [12 April].

Hryb said he had a one-and-a-half-hour meeting with Lukashenka, who remains certain that the referendum should decide four questions: whether Russian should become an official language, what state emblem and flag will look like, what degree of economic integration with Russia is desirable and whether the president should be empowered to disband parliament. Lukashenka told Hryb he had no intention of disbanding the current parliament, though.

Asked how Lukashenka responded to the incident involving a group of opposition deputies in the parliament building last night Hryb remarked: "The president said that the parliament held sessions in a building that was also the presidential residence and he would not let anybody, even members of parliament, abuse the rules established in the building." "Lukashenka did not say a word about any bombs," Hryb said and added that the president had been well aware of all events in the conference hall. [passage omitted]

Reportage on 12 Apr Eviction of Parliament Deputies

Militia Cordons Off Parliament Building

WS1204143595 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1402 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] On April 12 the Supreme Soviet could not begin its plenary sitting as usual at 9.30 [0630 GMT]. Now the House of Government and Independence Square are cordoned off by the militia. As one of the militiamen informed a BELAPAN correspondent, the Supreme Soviet may begin its plenary sitting at noon. According to an order from the Presidential administration, not one of the Belarusian or foreign journalists would be admitted to the sitting. The reason of the suspension of the parliamentary session has not been announced officially. According to unofficial information, last night the MPs on hunger-strike were thrown out of the House of Government. BELAPAN has not yet managed to receive information on this subject from official sources. Most likely, in that way the President has started to put into practice his intention to dissolve the parliament. According to information received, at 9.00 a.m., before the planned plenary sitting, the [opposition] BPF [Belarusian Popular Front] faction intended to meet the press in the building of the Belarusian State University which is situated opposite the House of Government. But the militia did not allowed this. Now the opposition is holding a press conference in the House of the Supreme Soviet, Karl Marx St.

In the evening of April 11, 19 MPs of the Supreme Soviet, members of the factions of the Belarusian Popular Front and the Belarusian Social-Democratic Hramada handed the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Myacheslaw Hryb the following statement:

"We are informing you that it became known to us that this night the special services of the Presidential administration and force units may take actions which contradicts our Constitutional right to freedom of expression and infringe upon our deputy inviolability. We ask you to ensure our guarding and the observance of the laws and the Constitution of the Republic of Belarus".

It will be recalled that on April 11, 15 members of the opposition, headed by Zyanon Paznyak, went on hunger-strike "to express protest against the President's unlawful actions fatal for Belarus" and after the plenary sitting was over they did not leave the Oval Hall. As the coordinator of the BPF faction Syarhey Navumchyk informed a group of journalists, referring to sources closely connected with the Presidential administration, at 9 o'clock in the evening representatives of the KGB or the Presidential security service may make an attempt at the forced evicting of the participants of the hunger-strike from the House of Government. At 6.15 p.m. a representative of the guarding service came up to the journalists still staying in the Oval Hall and ordered them to leave the House of Government. He declared that there was an instruction which allow journalists to stay there only from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. He informed that the MPs who would stay in the Oval Hall will be reliably guarded and there would be no actions against the MP on hunger-strike. Among those attending there were Ivan Tsitsyankow, the President's business-manager, and Vasil Dalhalew, chief of the Control Service of the Presidential administration. But they refused to comment on the situation.

Hunger-Strikers Display Marks of Beatings

LD1204191495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 12 (Interfax-West)—The leader of the opposition Belarussian Popular Front, Zenon Poznyak, showed a news conference in Minsk Wednesday a medical certificate that he suffered from injured kidney and liver as a result of a beating.

According to Poznyak, he took the beating from policemen in the parliamentary hall last evening when he and a group of opposition deputies announced a hunger-strike in protest of the presidential-proposed referendum and were taken out of the hall by force.

Another hunger-striker, deputy Aleksandr Shut, showed marks of beating, including bruises on his face, and a medical certificate of numerous bruises on his back.

Meanwhile, the coordinator of the front's parliamentary faction, Sergey Naumchik, told Interfax that they will continue the protest action despite the tough reaction by the law-enforcement bodies.

According to Naumchik, the strikers demanded cancelling the referendum, abolishing the presidential decision on censorship of the mass media and sacking Narodnaya Gazeta Editor-in-Chief Iosif Seredich.

The opposition also demands the state monopoly on the mass media be abolished, corrupt presidential staff brought to trial and judicial persecution of the republic's prominent union leader, Sergey Antonchik, be stopped.

Lukashenka Says He Gave Order To Evacuate Protesters

LD1204184195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1542 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By BELINFORM-TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, April 12 TASS—Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka admitted on Thursday that had ordered to evacuate deputies, staging a hunger strike, from the parliament.

Speaking before the parliament today, Lukashenka said that the order was given "with the aim to ensure their security".

Lukashenka said that on Wednesday evening he learned that according to an anonymous call, an explosive device had been planted in the premises of the parliament. "At first, I thought it was a provocation. But I could only think about the deputies' security and gave an order to evacuate them".

The president said that he knew nothing at the moment about any beating of the deputies during their forcible evacuation.

Lukashenka insisted that he had "the right to demand order in his residence".

The parliament and the presidential administration share the government building in the Belarusian capital.

Meanwhile, another bomb threat was received on Thursday by the Belarusian national television and radio company. An anonymous phone call warned that the administrative building of the company would be blown up if it does not stop broadcasting.

According to a company representative, it had decided to start the evacuation of the personnel immediately.

Kastenka, Lukashenka on Parliament Events

LD1304100095 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1600 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Despite reports that an explosive device had been planted in the hall where the Belarusian parliament sits, today, although late, the session continued its work. My colleagues Valyantsina Sychevich and Svyatlana Sysoyeva report.

[Unidentified correspondent] The regular session of the Belarusian parliament began as late as 1200 [0900 GMT]. The delay was explained by the fact that the militia and the KGB were verifying the anonymous telephone call in the evening, which stated that a mine had been put in the government building. It is also known that 18 deputies from the opposition who went on a hunger strike on Tuesday [11 April] intended to spend last night in the oval hall of the government building. All those who spoke today agreed that the telephone call was a provocation. Virtually the whole working day at the session was spent in debates on who needed that provocation. Parliament Speaker Myachyslaw Hryb delivered a preliminary short report. Later, Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka dealt on the events of last night in more detail.

[Begin Kastenka recording, in Russian] I would like to dwell chronologically on several facts. At 2010 [1710 GMT] last night, the security operations officer at the Defense Ministry headquarters received word from the Ministry of Internal Affairs that the government building had been mined or that there are some explosives there. On my orders, two groups of bomb disposal officers arrived at that building two hours later in three vehicles. [passage omitted] Later, the head of the engineering troops of the Defense Ministry arrived there. [passage omitted]

I want to say that I have a feeling that it was a previously planned provocation. When the bomb squad arrived at the building, there were already two groups of correspondents with cameras outside the building—all together about 10 people. One group was outside the right wing, the other outside the left wing. As soon as the vehicles arrived, everything was filmed in the hope that some serious provocative actions, forcible measures would be taken there, i.e. the scenario had been prepared calculating that some serious events may happen there. I must say that it gave me an unpleasant flavor. [passage omitted]

The president was informed about it. He also briefed me and said that all measures have to be taken because he was responsible for safety of deputies. I must say that because the volume of work was rather large, the work was being carried out all night and was completed only by 1100 this morning. An act was drawn, all the signatures were collected. Therefore we had to move the session of the session to 1200. [passage omitted] [end recording] [passage omitted]

Both the defense minister and the head of the Security Service were asked a lot of questions. Deputies Trusaw, Alampiyew, Karpenka, and others wanted to know both the cause and the nuances of the incident. Valyantsin Golubew made a speech to the deputies quoting the following factors: unknown people dressed in black, in face masks and in gas masks, showed disrespect to the opposition deputies, beat them with batons and with their feet, forced them into vehicle,s and dropped them off outside the city. When a parliament has been captured, it is no longer a parliament, stated Valyantsin Golubew. The deputies reacted to that speech in an agitated manner. After the break in the session, Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka took the floor.

[Begin Lukashenka recording, in Russian] My appearance in this hall is far from an expression of my weakness. I came here not out of some personal considerations or my position as the president. I must tell you honestly and I think that you will hear me out quietly. I am surprised that the people who should hear me here have left this hall. I regret it very much. You probably also understand why this act was taken. I would like to say that my appearance here is motivated absolutely by the desire to ensure that the two days that my former colleagues here have to work ... [pauses] It is the people who influence the character... [pauses] As a politician and a president, if the character is bad, your influence was bad, and I was constantly in your view, you could see me, to some degree it was you who formed me here... [pauses] [passage as heard]

I want to part with you in a dignified and human manner. I am very well briefed on your discussion here, with the proceedings, I was informed on the progress of the debates, I heard some of it myself, as far as it was possible, when I was in my office. Let me report to you, exclusively from the position of the president, on the incident which took place here. Maybe it is too petty for me to interfere in this matter. But since it has been raised to such heights, then I cannot help it. I stress it once more—I do not want to part with you as enemies. [passage omitted]

I did not prevent at all any actions of the interior troops, the special units which evacuated people from here. I am telling you this as the president. I was asking one thing: bear it in mind that you are being provoked. By no means, do not even scratch those people because the whole world will hear about it. The defense minister is right in saying that four groups of journalists were running around here in the yard. Two journalists were stopped when they were trying to enter the building. They needed that incident to show to the whole world there is dictatorship in the center of Europe. They needed that incident. Therefore I demanded only one thing: Even if you need more people for that, escort them calmly and so on. But as the results of the operation were reported to me, once more the head of the Security Service went to the hall and warned them, which was my demand—I asked to warn them—maybe they will change their mind and leave on their own accord. Five minutes before their evacuation they were warned. When people came to evacuate them they were all dressed. They were escorted three people to a car, I asked to have more vehicles there—land rovers, cars—to take them home. They wanted to be taken to the Supreme Soviet. They were taken there. Believe me, I only learned this morning that they were not allowed into the Supreme Soviet. But I do not know why one should storm the Supreme Soviet at night. Why would anyone try to enter the Supreme Soviet at 0300 in the morning? [passage omitted]

I was reproached here that somebody was beaten up here. I want to ask one question in this hall. Everything was happening in front of your eyes. Who gave members of the supreme legislative body the right to break the law established in this hall? I stress once more, and Mikalay Ivanavich Dzemyantsey [Supreme Soviet chairman before 1991] knows it that this is special regime building, and it is guarded according to a special plan, the same as the Supreme Soviet. [passage omitted]

Perhaps somebody was bumped, pardon me for this unpresidential word, on the way out. Why are you sobbing? Beaten up, broken, hurt—nobody beat anyone. There is a camera tape, we are transferring it to a VCR tape. As soon as this tape is ready we will show it, and not just to the deputies. We will show it to the whole nation. But why did I then start acting more strictly and agree with proposals of both the defense minister, on checking out this building, and the head of the security? He phoned me at about midnight and said: We cannot do it amicably, they have taken out knives, razors and said, we will open our veins, cut off our own heads and kill you too, there will be a flood of blood. Pardon me, but such threats are over the top in the residence of the president. Besides being deputies, they are citizens of the Republic of Belarus who are not allowed to disturb the order of the residence of the president. You come here, it is dry here, clean and warm, after the work is done, please go home. Therefore we will show this tape to the people, and not just that one. We will show them a tape with the rally on Sunday, with those leaflets about which I spoke, the illegal rally. When people were brought out without permission, were gathered outside the Supreme Soviet, you will hear them talk. [passage omitted] Why should I react calmly to it? I have the right to demand order in my residence, which is my home. Why do you remove that right from me?

I am urging the procurator general to institute criminal proceedings on this matter, and to view all these actions in the light of a criminal case, and to involve those tapes and the officials. Do everything as it should be done. At least once, Vasil Ivanavich [Shaladonaw], show everybody that you are the procurator general. Stop waving between these streams. You are the procurator general. Act. You will have support, not just from the Supreme Soviet but also from the president. Full support at that. And let it all be viewed in the light of criminal proceedings. At least one criminal case of known anti-corruption was impossible to drag into the court. The court assembled and he was not there. I am convinced that within those proceedings all matters will be clarified. I am stating publicly here that the president knew about this operation and was saving those starving people because I was responsible for their lives. [passage indistinct]

This incident here had hardly ended as some foreign embassies and services started to demand certain information and make certain statements. Here is a direct chain and a direct connection with what is happening here. If we are a sovereign state why should we bow to anybody? We should not bow either to the east or to the west. And there will be no bowing. [passage indistinct] We will not do anything without power. I understand that you do not like strong power. Do you think that it is of some benefit and interest for me to implement these strict measures? God forbid. I would not like another burden like this. I saw the consequences. I saw the intrigues besides this [word indistinct] and besides this incident. [passage omitted]

Do I have to wait until [words indistinct] and people will be shot in entrances of apartment blocks? No, I should not. I not only have to take measures, I have to show power. I must [words indistinct], and I will do it as the head of state. [passage omitted] We will have to show you the tape of the information about Sunday on television, which [words indistinct] and we will show you. And the procurator general, if he brings criminal proceedings, as far as I know you are ready to bring ... [pauses] Have you? Thank you, Vasil Ivanavich. We will pass it to the Procurator's Office and they will consider it there. And today or tomorrow we will try to show it on television. [passage omitted]

The press makes it even worse. From Russia there was a report today: Belarus is, as never before, close to a civil war. Russia's radio broadcast it. I instructed the information department and the Committee for State Security to find that journalist who had sent that information. I am saying this to you directly. What civil war? Why are you aggravating the situation? I have just returned from a live program on Russia's first channel. I talked to Russians on a live program. There was a flood of questions: Alyaksandr Rygoravich, what is happening in your country? We are looking at you at the center of this unification and creation of this Slavic union. What civil war? I said: have fear in God, brothers. What civil war? And later it turned out that it was true. That information was broadcast. Who reported it? Those journalists who are here now—journalists of Russia's radio stations. I want to tell you: pack and leave immediately for Moscow. Immediately. Before we find you. It will be too late to laugh then. Nobody has entitled you to incite passions here. Yes, Aleksandr, you should not aggravate the situation here. If you want to work, let us work together for the benefit of this nation, for the benefit of the land on which you live. [passage omitted] [end recording]

And in effect, by the end of the working day the parliament embarked directly on their legislative activities. By way of a nominal vote [words indistinct] votes in favor, the session ratified the treaty on friendship, good-neighborly relations and cooperation between the Republic of Belarus and the Russian Federation. The agreement on partnership and cooperation between the European Community and its states and the Republic of Belarus, which was signed in Brussels, was ratified almost unanimously. It was noted that that document will make it possible to create a legal corridor for cooperation with the west.

The session also considered today the issue of joint control over customs services by Russian and Belarus and on a customs union. Petr Krechka, chairman of the state customs union, delivered a report on that issue.

The parliament will return to those issues tomorrow. On the whole, as Mechyslaw Hryb said at the end of the sitting, tomorrow the deputies's corps will have to work well and fruitfully, possibly for the last time, and then to have a photograph taken as a souvenir.

Lukashenka, Deputies Comment on Political Crisis

LD1204181595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] "We have never been so close to civil war as today", Parliament Speaker Mechyslaw Hryb said on Wednesday following last night's incident in which the police manhandled a group of opposition deputies led by Zenon Posnyak. He was speaking at a meeting of senior parliamentary officials.

One of them, Boris Savitskiy, said the session must consider the sole question: either to dismiss the president on charges of violating the constitution or dissolve the parliament because of its ineptitude.

The latest setback follows the parliamentary approval of only two points out of the 9-point resolution proposed by the president. These include the go ahead for economic union with Russia and a referendum together with general elections on May 14.

But the deputies rejected there other referendum questions including the status of the Russian language, the country's emblems and the president's right to dissolve parliament.

Speaking afterwards, Lukashenka accused the parliament of violating the constitution and threatened to dissolve it if the deputies failed to reconsider their position. He spoke of taking in charge of the poll now that the parliament set the referendum date.

But members of the opposition People's Front [PF] saw the decision as being in breach of the basic law.

In an interview with Interfax, their leader Zenon Poznyak described it as a ploy by Russian intelligence aimed at a sellout of the country's economic and political interests. Opposition members also announced they would demand cancelling yesterday's voting results on the grounds that about a dozen deputies were absent during the ballot.

As a result, a group of 14 deputies declared a hunger strike sitting on the steps close to the rostrum. They also asked the attending health minister for medical checks.

The strikers were to spend last night in the parliamentary building. PF Coordinator Sergey Naumchik in an interview with Interfax gave an account of what followed.

He said two security chiefs entering the hall late last night announced that the police received an anonymous call saying that a bomb was planted there. However, the striking deputies demanded that bomb disposal experts examine the hall in their presence. No bomb was found and the experts compiled an appropriate report signed by opposition members as well.

An hour later, the deputies faced a presidential ultimatum to leave the hall or face being forced out which they rejected.

At 23:30 a group of 15 policemen and 10 members of crack units had failed to evict the deputies, but two hours later another group of 200 policemen burst in the hall starting to beat the strikers and take them away in cars to different parts of the city.

Naumchik said the president "has overstepped the line beyond which there is fascism and bloodshed.

The Front leader at a news conference in Minsk on Wednesday produced a medical certificate saying he suffered kidney and liver injuries.

He maintained seeing a presidential limousine and motorcade outside the Government Office at about 02:00 which indicates that Lukashenka knew of what was going on.

Prosecutor General Vasiliy Sholodonov did likewise deny that a bomb was planted in the parliament building saying the anonymous caller could not have contacted the police through the intercom since its numbers are available only to senior government or police officials.

He announced instigating criminal proceedings into last night's incident.

The president himself has not intention of dissolving the parliament but will go ahead with the May 14 referendum, the Parliament Speaker told reporters after a meeting with Lukashenka on Wednesday. IF note: In an interview with Russian Radio on Wednesday, Lukashenka reaffirmed he would not reconsider the referendum decision. He said the parliament set the date of the polling day but the head of state was alone responsible to formulate the referendum questions under the country's basic law. The president described as provocation what happened in parliament last night and accused "a handful of people" of trying to unsettle the situation by using the parliamentary rostrum. He threatened to dissolve the legislature though being reluctant to do so when it had only two days to live.

The parliament speaker himself quoted Lukashenka as saying that the parliament held sessions in what is his official residence and he would not allow anyone including the deputies to break the existing regulations.

Hryb said the president was well aware of what happened.

In the meantime, police broke up a crowd of some 300 Front supporters gathering outside the Government Office on Wednesday afternoon.

Third Secretary of the U.S. Embassy in Minsk Anton Godfrey told Interfax that Washington's formal reaction to last night's incident would come later in the day on Wednesday.

Lukashenka's Clearing Deputies From Parliament Protested

LD1204200295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk, April 12 (INTERFAX-WEST)— A leader of the Belarusian parliamentary opposition has sharply criticized the actions of the Belarusian president towards deputies from the People's Front.

Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka "crossed the line beyond which fascism begins and much blood may be spilled," Coordinator of the Belarusian opposition People's Front Sergey Naumchik told Interfax when commenting on the last-night events in the republic's parliament.

A group of deputies who declared a hunger strike on Tuesday in order to protest Lukashenka's initiative on holding a referendum, remained in the parliament's hall last night. Lukashenka proposed that the issues of the state symbols, the status of the Russian language, economic integration with Russia and granting to the president the right to dismiss the parliament be discussed at the referendum.

The parliamentary opposition said the right to dismiss the parliament would be illegal as it contradicted the republic's Constitution.

Naumchik said that around 21:00 the directors of the house of government defense and the president's defense services had entered the building where the strikers were. The officials said that an unknown person had called the police at around 20:00 and warned that there was an explosive device in the parliament's building. The deputies were proposed to leave the building. The deputies proposed that the building be examined in their presence. Naumchik said the explosive device had never been revealed.

He said at 22:00 the director of the house of government defense service had come to the parliament's hall once again together with a colonel. The deputies were presented with a verbal ultimatum demanding that they leave the building. The officials referred to the president's order to "free the hall by any means."

Naumchik said that at 23:30 the first force action had taken place in which the directors of the defense service had participated. They brought with them 15 police officers and 10 officers of OMON special police units. However, they failed to make the deputies leave the building.

Naumchik said that at 2:30 about 200 law enforcement officers had broken into the parliament's hall armed with police sticks and short arms. They began beating the deputies. The deputies were forced into cars, one in a car, and brought to various districts of the town, Naumchik said.

Lukashenka Orders Inquiry

LD1204205895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MINSK, April 12 (Interfax-West)—Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka urged the prosecutor general today that a criminal case be instigated on the "fact of evacuation" of the opposition's deputies from the parliament's building. The parliamentarians from the opposition declared a hunger strike and decided to remain in the parliament's building for the night.

On Tuesday 18 parliamentarians called a hunger strike to protest against the initiative of the Belarusian president to hold a nation-wide referendum on May 14. The deputies said they believed that the questions proposed for the referendum contradicted the republic's Constitution as they would require amending the Fundamental Law. Afterwards, an anonymous phone call announced that there was an explosive device in the building. The deputies were forced out of the building after field engineers failed to reveal the bomb.

When asked why law enforcement officers who came to evacuate the deputies were armed with sticks and automatic guns, Lukashenka said that Chief of the Main Department of State Defense Mikhail Tesovets had announced that the strikers had refused to leave the parliament's building and that the deputies were armed with knives and razors.

Guard Chief Explains 12 Apr Eviction of Deputies

WS1304083895 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0730 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It became known that on April 12 at noon not one of the parliamentarians was admitted to the Oval Hall in the House of Government where a plenary sitting of the Supreme Soviet was to take place. But the MPs forced their way through the militia cordons and the sitting began. Journalist were kept in the foyer till 1.30 p.m. And only after Myacheslaw Hryb intervened the press was allowed to attend the parliamentary sitting where MP Mikhail Tsyasavets, chief of the Central Board for Guarding Administrative Buildings at the Ministry of Internal Affairs, who guided the operation for the eviction of the hunger-strikers, reported on the events that took place last night in the House of Government.

According to Tsyasavets, yesterday at 20.09 an officer on duty in the Board of Internal Affairs of the Minsk-City executive committee informed him that the commandant's office in the House of Government was mined. At 23.17 Tsyasavets together with Colonel Valeriy Khasiyew, the commanding officer of military unit No.3310 suggested that the MPs on hunger-strike should leave the hall because the inspection was possible only after the people were evacuated. According to Tsyasavets, threatening with bloodshed the MPs refused to leave the Oval Hall. After this all the 19 MPs "were escorted" by special subdivisions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to cars and driven "to the places they wanted". According to the same reporter, at 11.30 p.m. having broken the locks 15 people headed by MP Viktar Kakowka and his brother Vasil "in a drunken state" burst into the right wing of the House of Government. Viktar Kakowka was driven to the Oktyabrskaya hotel, his brother to the Maskowskiy district department of internal affairs in Minsk. Mikhail Tsyasavets decidedly refused to answer MPs questions. The editor-in-chief of the Svaboda newspaper MP Ihar Hyarmenchuk declared that the opposition would continue the hunger-strike.

Former Parliament Speaker Warns of 'Great Troubles'

WS1304085095 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0730 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As it was reported, in the morning of April 12 the MPs of the Supreme Soviet were not let pass to the House of Government where a parliamentary plenary sitting was to take place. The heads of the militia cordons on Independence Square alleged that the building was mined. Members of the BPF [Belarusian Popular Front] faction who intended to hold a press conference in the building of the Minsk-City executive committee, which is also situated on Independence Square, were not admitted there by the militia. The militia also surrounded a group of people with Belarusian state flags who arrived at the square to express protest against the unlawful actions of the authorities as regards the MPs on hunger-strike. As a result of a skirmish with the militia a woman was injured.

Stanislaw Shushkevich defined what had happened as a militant idiotism. "And this idiotism is headed by our President," the former parliamentary speaker said. According to Shushkevich, "if workers, students, trade unions are not raised to action, the Republic may come across great troubles, to put it mildly". republic". [as received] "Democracy and lawfulness in Belarus are under a serious threat," Mr Shushkevich said. He expressed hope that the population would draw correct conclusions from these events and would offer an adequate counteraction. Speaking about the official reason for why the MPs were not admitted to the House of Government Stanislaw Shushkevich declared: "They must have concrete brains, and the major part of the President's team seems to have such, to offer the MPs such a version".

MP Syarhey Navumchyk informed journalists of his conversation with the chairman of the Supreme Soviet Myacheslaw Hryb. According to the head of the Belarusian parliament, while the operation for the eviction of the hunger-strikers was taking place, the officers on duty for the KGB and the Ministry of Internal Affairs knew nothing about what was going on. In reply to Mr Navumchyk's question to whom the special subdivision "Alpha," that, in the opinion of the opposition, was the most active last night, is subordinate Myacheslaw Hryb said that it was under the President's command.

Defense Minister Reports on Events to Deputies

WS1304091395 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The events in parliament that began on Tuesday continued into the night, as tensions mounted. According to explanations by Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka, who addressed the people's deputies shortly after 2000 [1700 GMT] yesterday, the House of Government superintendent's service was informed via phone that the building had been mined. Two groups of bomb experts arrived and an inspection began. The event was reported to Supreme Soviet Chairman Hryb and President Lukashenka. Hryb ordered that everybody in the House of Government be evacuated. There were, in addition to the [superintendent's] personnel, 19 opposition deputies who had gone on a hunger strike the day before.

At 2100 on 11 April, the head of the Belarusian Interior Ministry Main Directorate of State Protection informed the strikers about the phone call, saying that, judging by the call, the building had been mined and it was necessary that they leave so an inspection could begin. The opposition deputies refused, however, to do this. Attempts to remove the deputies from the session hall were concluded only around 0300 in the morning, and it was necessary to use force to do this. On the morning of 12 April, the deputies held a news conference and stated that they had been beaten. (?Passions) flared up still more as the guards refused to let journalists, and even some people's deputies who had arrived, into the House of Government foyer, even though Myacheslaw Hryb declared that neither he nor the president had issued such orders.

Following this, [Defense Minister] Anatol Kastenka took the floor. [sentence as heard] According to him, all that happened last night was necessary for the deputies' personal safety, because bomb experts could not check the building while the deputies were present. The minister also expressed his opinion that the event was a well-planned provocation, since there were already groups of journalists with cameras at the House of Government before the arrival of bomb experts.

Five minutes before the end of the morning session, Myacheslaw Hryb read a note from the president, which informed that Alyaksandr Lukashenka would arrive in the Oval Hall at 1600 to provide additional information and answer questions from the deputies.

The president devoted a considerable portion of his speech to the incident in the House of Government. Following this, he appealed to the parliamentarians to resume their legislative activity. Indeed, by the end of the working day, the parliament had adopted several documents. In particular, the deputies ratified the agreement on friendship, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between Belarus and Russia, as well as the agreement on partnership between the EU and the Republic of Belarus.

Opposition Reports on Eviction

WS1304092695 Minsk BELAPAN in English 0730 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The members parliamentary factions of the Belarusian Popular Front and the Belarusian Social-Democratic Hramada who were on hunger-strike yesterday held a press conference on last night's events in the House of Government. According to the participants of the press conference, on April 11, at 9 p.m. [1800 GMT] the chief of the board for guarding the House of Government Mikhail Tsyasavets and the chief of the Presidential security service Karalew entered the Oval Hall and announced that according to an anonymous telephone message, the building was mined and the MPs [members of parliament] should be evacuated.

"We declared we were on political hunger-strike and would not go anywhere," MP Ihar Hyarmenchuk said.

At 10.20 p.m. Tsyasavets appeared again and repeated the announcement. In reply to the request of the MPs to answer by whose order the hunger-strikers should leave the Oval Hall Tsyasavets said: "According to an instruction from President Lukashenka."

The first action for the forced eviction of the MPs from the hall took place at 11.30 p.m. when Tsyasavets appeared escorted by 20-30 people in leather jackets. He ordered them to clear the hall from the hunger-strikers. The MPs took their seat in the left corner from the presidium and took each other's hands. The people in leather tried to pull MP Barys Hyunter out of the MPs' chain. They did not managed to do so and stepped back. Then, according to the MPs, Tsyasavets and Karalew themselves unsuccessfully attempted to pull out Hyunter. According to MP Valyantsin Holubew, by that time the hunger-strikers had already been informed from their sources that a special group of armed people was being prepared for an operation to drive out the MPs.

From 10.30 p.m. to 0.41 a.m. sappers from two military units worked in the House of Government and in the Oval Hall. They reported that mines had not been discovered and a relevant record was drawn up. In spite of Tsyasavets' announcement of the universal evacuation of the House of Government the MPs met two girl-typists who heard nothing about the "mining" of the building. Mr Holubew also informed that when Tsyasavets was entering the Oval Hall the general light was turned on and the deputies saw some people with two video cameras on the balconies. After Tsyasavets left the light was turned off. "They needed a provocation from us, which they wanted to record... Any move, any gesture so that then they would be able to prove that we were to blame for what happened," Mr Holubew declared.

According to MP Leontiy Zdanevich, Tsyasavets, when ordering the MPs to leave the Oval Hall, did not offer any other room where they could continue the hunger-strike. He only mentioned buses which could drive everyone home. When the sappers went away the hunger- strikers decided to go to sleep. According to Mr Holubew, after 1 p.m. [as received] they began to hear sounds from which they could suppose that a lot of people were in the building. "Having opened the door from the Oval Hall I saw a lot of people armed with sub-machine-guns, There was even a heavy machine-gun. I rushed back and shouted 'Gunners!'," Mr Holubew said.

At the very moment all the doors of the Oval Hall were blockaded and the hunger-strikers heard someone turn keys in the locks.

At 2.44 a.m. Tsyasavets and Karalew appeared again and informed that they intended to make the MPs leave the Oval Hall by force. At 2.51 all the doors opened and the hall was filled up by people armed with batons and sub-machine-guns. According to the MPs, they were representatives of at least three different units. Of particular brutality were people in black and in masks. They went for the 19 hunger-strikers. They kicked the hunger-strikers and beat them with batons. As the MPs suppose, these people bore no relation to the Belarusian militia nor to the KGB. They formed the opinion that these people were from Russia's Federal Service for Counter-Intelligence [FSK]. One of the grounds for such a supposition was the fact that using bad language the masked people reviled the Republic of Belarus and its sovereignty. Besides the masked people, there were also people in camouflaged uniform and armored vests, armed with sub-machine-guns and respirators. The MPs suppose that one version of the operation envisaged the use of poison gas. According to the MPs, in all about 400 armed people took part in the operation, and at least 200 of them were in the Oval Hall. The masked people twisted the hunger-strikers' arms behind their backs and handed them to the gunners who also unmercifully beat them. Then the MPs were by groups driven away from the House of Parliament by militia cars and thrown out in remote districts of Minsk. Some MPs managed to reach the building of the Prosecutor's Office. An ambulance was called there. The physicians certified the MPs' bodily injuries. Incidentally these injuries were showed at the press conference. The night events were qualified by its participants as the beginning of a fascist putsch in the country. The MPs declared that Belarus was never so close to a civil war.

"Lukashenka has overstepped the limits beyond which there may be bloodshed, and beyond which there is fascism," MPs Barys Hyunter and Uladzimir Zablotski declared. In the opinion of the parliamentary opposition, the operation was directed by Lukashenka himself who was in the House of Government. The MPs saw his Mercedes and a car of the Presidential security service at the House of Government. At the same time, according to the participants of the press conference, there were Ivan Tsitenkow, the President's business- manager, and the head of the Presidential administration Leanid Sinitsyn.

Moldova

Snegur Doubts Russia's 'True' Intentions in Dniester

AU1304100995 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1945 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 12/4/1995—"The presence of Russian parliamentarians at the recent Dniester referendum, as well as inclusion of the 14th Army withdrawal issue into the State Duma's agenda, are causing new questions concerning the true attitude of Russia towards the Dniester problem," Moldovan President Mircea Snegur stated in his interview with a group of Austrian journalists.

Snegur said the above Dniester referendum strained the socio-political atmosphere in Moldova, and regarded the behaviour of certain Russian political circles as an interference into Moldovan internal affairs.

Commenting the recent student events in Chisinau, the President indicated that consultations are in progress now to find optimum ways to satisfy students' demands, after which concrete propositions will be made.

Answering a question about Moldova's relationship with the CIS, Mircea Snegur has confirmed that the republic participates only in the CIS Economic Treaty. At the same time, he expressed dissatisfaction about the slow restoration of economic ties between CIS member states. Simultaneously, Moldova seeks to broaden its economic relations in all other directions. For instance, the share of other-than-CIS countries in Moldova's trade turnover grew up from 8 percent in 1991 to 34 percent last year.

Student Strike Said 'Losing Public Support'

AU1304104195 Chisinau INFOTAG in English 1945 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau INFOTAG, 12/4/1995—Perhaps history's biggest Moldovan hora (national round dance) was arranged today by students on strike in downtown Chisinau. Thousands of them linked their hands and formed a gigantic human chain around the Government Building. In exactly national way, the hora circle was moving slowly around the building, with dancers chanting anti-government slogans and reiterating their former demands.

Alongside with socio-economic demands, the students are insisting on a series of political ones. For instance, they are urging to alter the Constitution and to overthrow the government.

In recent days, however, the strike is losing public support, with less and less protesters arriving at the Central Square. Several educational establishment have resumed lessons, and daily manifestations are arranged, for 2 or three hours, by relatively small groups of activists from various institutions, and pensioners.

Indignant about the absence of reaction from the government, the students are trying to attract public attention to their strike by blocking traffic in the city's central part, and by dancing the Moldovan hora around the official building. About a hundred policemen were on guard around the house, watching the dancers but not interfering into the performance.

On Wednesday [12 April], negotiations were continued between the strike committee and the governmental commission formed by presidential edict. Also today, the strike committee distributed an appeal to voters calling them to take part in the local elections and thus to express their real will. The document, however, contains no appeals to vote for any particular political forces.

Local Officials Appeal To Make Comrat Gagauz Capital

AU1204065195 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 2200 GMT 10 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Comrat BASAPRESS, 10/4/1995—The Comrat town councillors appealed the Joint Commission for implementing the Gagauz Yeri Law to make Comrat the administrative center of the territorial autonomy in Southern Moldova. Georgiy Kyrma, Comrat mayor, stated to BASA that "the councillors' request complies with Article 26 of the Gagauz Yeri Law." According to the councillors and the Gagauz leadership, Comrat "has fully deserved to become the autonomy's administrative center." This request is opposed by the Ceadar Lunga [town] administrative bodies. Dumitru Croitoru, Ceadar Lunga mayor, is called "an opponent loyal to Chisinau authorities." The deadline for registering the candidates for the office of Gagauz governor will expire in 18 days. Local observers point out that it is not yet clear how many supporters Dumitru Croitoru and the other two pretenders, Gagauz speaker Mikhail Kendigelyan and Gagauz President Stepan Topal have.

Kazakhstan

UN Deputy Secretary General Meets Kazakh Envoy

LD1204165695 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting has taken place between our republic's permanent representative at the UN, Akmaral Arystanbekov and the deputy secretary-general of this authoritative international organization, Marrack Goulding.

During the talks, information was brought to Goulding's notice about the forthcoming referendum on the prolongation of Nursultan Nazarbayev's authority and about the political and economic situation in the republic. The deputy secretary-general expressed his gratitude for the information. He said that to date he had not heard any criticism regarding the policies of the Kazakh head of state. The world community understands that in the complicated situation which has arisen, the president is taking the necessary measures to strengthen stability in the country. Marrack Goulding highly appreciated the actions of Nursultan Nazarbayev to protect and support stability, calling them constitutional. And it was emphasized that in the conditions of a multinational country, a less wise leadership could have brought about the creation of a complicated situation in society. Marrack Goulding also noted that openness is being shown in the policy being carried out in the republic and that this is very important in the context of supporting peace and stability on our planet.

Nazarbayev Says 1995 Will Mark Turning Point in Economy

LD1204195295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev says he needs an extension of his mandate to be able to speed up the pace of reforms during a complicated period of transition. He was speaking during a visit to Kzyl-Orda on Wednesday.

The president pointed to signs of an improvement in the country's economic performance. Last month's inflation stood at 5.1 percent, the national currency unit was relatively stable and production was picking up though slowly. Nazarbayev hopes that 1995 will be a turning point in Kazakhstan's economic showing.

On the latest armed incident on the Tajik-Afghan border leading to the death of 17 Kazakh soldiers (two of them from Kzyl-Orda), the president pledged to do all he could to prevent the killing of Kazakh soldiers in CIS trouble spots. As he expressed condolences to the bereaved families, Nazarbayev stressed that the soldiers had died while protecting CIS borders in order to prevent the evil to spread from Tajikistan to other regions including Kazakhstan.

The president is expected to visit local plants and farms and Okumkol oil field.

Ospanov on Investment Needs, Future Plans

954F2053A Almaty PANORAMA in Russian No 14, 8 Apr 95 p 9

[Interview with Marat Ospanov, chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers' Committee for the Use of Foreign Capital, by Nurlan Makhmudov, PANORAMA correspondent; place and date not given: "Marat Ospanov: It Is Necessary To Improve the Investment Climate in the Country"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Makhmudov] Marat Turdybekovich, how do you assess the current situation, when suddenly you went from the position of deputy speaker of parliament to work in an executive authority organ?

[Ospanov] I do not think that there is anything extraordinary in this, although how it happened turned out to be a surprise not only for me. We have to get accustomed to living in a rule-of-law state, and all of us should obey the decision of the Constitutional Court, even if it would seem erroneous to whomever it may be. I think that I will be able to devote myself in the new work to that for which I ran a second time for the Supreme Council—the further advancement of economic reforms.

I tried in parliament to get us to adopt the necessary economic laws more quickly, but, unfortunately, the situation developed in such a way that we were unable to do this. I can say, and PANORAMA, it seems, noted this, that I was the only one among the deputies who openly declared support for the government program: It coincided with those of my convictions which I have held since 1990; that is, from the beginning of the work of the last parliament.

As is known, one of the important provisions of the program is the attraction of foreign capital, and I will now have to work on this in earnest. I will try to apply all of my knowledge and abilities. It is my firm conviction that 30 percent of the republican budget that we at one time received from the Union in the form of subsidies can be filled owing to attracted foreign investments.

[Makhmudov] Permit me to ask a somewhat procedural question. Lively conversations concerning the need for such a committee under the government went on as far back as October-November, but it was then assumed that it would have several different functions. Consequently, the edict signed on 15 March concerning the formation of your committee surprised even the specialists. But you were in the Supreme Council until 11 March; therefore, it is probably impossible to assume that you somehow participated in the preparation of this document?

[Ospanov] No, I did not participate. For me, all of this was very unexpected. Although, as you will recall, at the end of December the Supreme Council passed a new law on foreign investments, and an absolutely new market ideology on attracting the foreign investor was set forth there. In addition, as has already been noted, the policy of attracting investors declared in the program of the government could become the basis for the creation of our committee exactly in that form.

[Makhmudov] Marat Turdybekovich, PANORAMA predicted your appointment to this post. But one person cannot by himself replace an entire staff, and therefore, you will have to create your own team now. What will it be like? How do you plan to conduct the rotation of personnel, and will continuity between the former National Agency for Foreign Investments (NAII) and the committee be maintained?

[Ospanov] Of course, it would be ideal to come immediately with one's own team, but we will be candid. Inasmuch as all of this occurred unexpectedly, I do not have any kind of a well-knit collective. Undoubtedly, I know people whom I could trust as like- minded persons, and therefore changes in the leadership will absolutely be made, and even at the level of directorates and branches. But when I was introduced to the collective, I informed everyone that those who want to work could remain. I have this principle: It is necessary to work with people. Nevertheless, it is impossible to find specialists better than those who remained in the agency even in troubling times, and who did not go anywhere. I think that the necessary continuity will be maintained, but there will also be rearrangements, up to and including radical ones.

[Makhmudov] Can you name at least some of those whom you will invite or reconfirm?

[Ospanov] I will refrain for the time being.

[Makhmudov] The program of the government that was published at the beginning of the year planned to attract foreign capital to Kazakhstan in 1995 in the amount of $1.5 billion just to cover the budget deficit. Can the committee, which is going through a transformation, manage such a sum this year?

[Ospanov] If you use international yardsticks, then this sum at this stage of reform is very insignificant. For example, Vietnam, you see, has 810 billion in investments. Or take Malaysia, which we have gotten accustomed to treating as a very small country: Many well-known large international firms bring capital there. Thus, it is necessary for us now to apply great efforts to improve the investment climate in the country, both in a legal respect and from the standpoint of changing the mentality of the people (so that they do not look askance at each foreigner as at a scrounger who has come to rob us), and also to curb our bureaucratic procedures. The sum of $1.5 billion is now quite realistic for us, but I will set the task for myself of reaching the level of exactly that 30 percent of the republican budget that comprised the former Union subsidies to Kazakhstan.

[Makhmudov] Would you be able to present your own program to the leadership of the committee? How do you propose to build relations with the other structures of executive authority, especially with the ministries of economics and finance?

[Ospanov] So that there would be an active influx of foreign capital, we must observe the so-called compulsory 10 commandments. The most difficult one for us now is to overcome the inertia of bureaucracy. We have favorable trends from a financial standpoint: a decline in inflation, a relatively stable tenge rate of exchange, and a cut in National Bank interest rates. There are enough problems with the creation of an infrastructure—an investor should get off the aircraft ramp and receive good working conditions here. But of course, one committee, no matter how specialized it would be, could not cope with this. Therefore, it is necessary to arrange interrelations with the Ministry of Economics, to which the NAII was subordinate, with the Ministry of Finance, and with our banks—export-import, development, and rehabilitation. With the Asian Bank...

Moreover, relations have to be arranged with the committee for the privatization of state property, inasmuch as one of the active forms of attracting investors is investor participation in privatization.

So that the investor would come quickly and not walk in circles and for years, there must be one state organ that would be able to make responsible decisions. From this standpoint, without arrogance and without hogging the blanket, I think that objectively and logically the committee should become this organ. But we must build all of our decisions on those proposals that will come from local administrations and from the ministries and departments. We are not declaring that we are the most important: We are simply taking on a little more work. The foreign investor should know only one address to which he has to go: He should not pester the Cabinet of Ministers and different ministries, and he should not run after all possible agreements—we should do this work here.

[Makhmudov] Kazakhstan has had the regrettable experience of the recall of governmental guarantees in the sum of almost $2.5 billion and, in addition, the text of an edict on the organization of the committee talks directly about the functions of control over the use of foreign capital. Does any kind of plan already exist regarding this work in order that in the future it would not be necessary to take back issued guarantees?

[Ospanov] I still cannot say anything specific, but we will be working closely in this plan with our controlling organs.

[Makhmudov] Opinions exist that Marat Ospanov can view the post of chairman of this committee only as something temporary, and that after a certain time he can leave for the new Supreme Council, or also somewhere else. How do you view this situation for yourself?

[Ospanov] Even if I work here for a short period of time, I am inclined to work energetically. And as for participation in the new elections to parliament—this will be decided when the time comes: I will look at what its structure and nature will be like. But I am already receiving letters and telegrams today from my constituents with expressions of support at any moment.

Government Welcomes Nuclear Powers' Guarantees

LD1204205395 Almaty Kazakh Radio First Program Network in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued a statement. It says that our republic welcomes the fact that the UN Security Council's permanent member-states possessing nuclear weapons have given security guarantees to states that do not possess nuclear weapons, and that are parties to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty.

As a result of this, world nuclear policy has entered a new positive phase. Being a party to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and calling for it to be prolonged indefinitely and unconditionally, Kazakhstan always regarded the necessity of giving security guarantees to states that do not possess nuclear weapons as a main condition for the creation of a comprehensive system for the nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

In the opinion of the republic's Foreign Ministry, this decision by the states possessing nuclear weapons takes on a special significance in the run-up to the New York conference on the prolongation of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, at which the fate of one of the fundamental international agreements in the sphere of disarmament will be decided.

Kazakhstan regards the indefinite prolongation of the treaty as a key factor in achieving a more stable and secure peace. Therefore, the conclusion of a treaty on a universal and complete ban on nuclear weapons tests as soon as possible will be the logical end of this process.

Cabinet Orders Census To Be Held in 1999

LD1304092895 Almaty PANORAMA in Russian 8 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Preparations began 3 April for holding a regular census of the population in January 1999. The Cabinet of Ministers' resolution on this was signed by First Deputy Prime Minister Vitaliy Mette.

The preparation, carrying out, processing, collation, and publication of the results of the census are entrusted to the State Committee for Statistics and Analysis and its regional bodies. One month from today the state committee is to submit a proposal to the government on setting up a republican commission for helping with the 1999 population census. The Finance Ministry is tasked with making provisions for expenses relating to the preparation, carrying out, and collation of the census results as well as for related expenditures in the republican budget for the period 1995-2001.

Voting Procedure for Kazakh Referendum Approved

LD1204205095 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The form of ballot paper for voting at the republican referendum to be held on 29 April has been approved by the Central Electoral Commission. The ballot papers are to be printed in the state language and in the language of inter-ethnic communication, or in the language of the ethnic majority which compactly inhabits the territory of the relevant administrative-territorial unit. The words "yes" and "no" (in Kazakh, Russian, and other languages) are printed in blue, and the words "leave the chosen answer" and "cross out the unnecessary" (in Kazakh, Russian, and other languages) are printed in red. The width of the bulletin is set at 144mm and the length at 203mm. [passage omitted]

At the time of voting, the citizens, in expressing their will, are invited to cross out one of the answers—"yes" or "no"—written in the ballot paper. Failure to comply with this requirement by a voter invalidates the ballot paper, according to Article 28 "On the Republican Referendum" of the decree by the head of our state, which has the validity of a constitutional law.

As is known, it establishes the following procedure for the ballot papers to be deemed invalid at the time of counting the results of the republican referendum:

"Ballot papers of non-prescribed form and ballot papers which lack the signature of a member of the district electoral commission are deemed invalid at the time of counting the results of the referendum.

"Ballot papers are also deemed invalid when:

"Neither of the proposed answers to the given question is crossed out;

"both versions of the proposed answer are crossed out;

"other circumstances make it impossible to identify the voters' will.

"The decision on considering ballot papers to be invalid at the time of counting the results of the referendum will be made by the district electoral referendum commission. In case of disagreement, the issue is to be resolved by a vote of the district commission."

In the case of a citizen agreeing to extend the term of office of the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan, he (the voter) is to cross out the answer "no", and in case of disagreeing—"yes."

The ballot paper should look like this: Ballot Paper
for voting at the republican referendum
on 29th April 1995

Do you agree with extending the term in office of the President of Republic of Kazakhstan N.A. Nazarbayev, who was elected nationwide on 1st December 1991, until 1st December 2000?

Yes	No
(I agree)	(I do not agree)
Leave the chosen answer	Cross out the unnecessary answer

Kyrgyzstan

Akayev Asks MPs To Approve Constitutional Changes

LD1204175895 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 0500 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Assembly of Peoples' Representatives of the Supreme Council continues its work at Government House. Here is a report from our parliament correspondent Urusa Osmonaliyeva. The information was sent in by radio.

[Begin Osmonaliyeva recording] First, a few words about yesterday' work in both chambers of the republic's Supreme Council. The Peoples' Representatives Assembly discussed and approved the chairmen of the appropriate committees. [passage omitted]

After lunch Almanbet Matubraimov, speaker of the Assembly of People's Representatives, read out the text of a message from President Askar Akayev to the chairmen of both chambers and to Consitutional Court President Cholpon Bayekova. The message from the head of state requests that the parliamentarians speed up the adoption of amendments and addenda to the republic's Constitution arising out of the referendum, in particular delimiting the powers of the Supreme Council's chambers. In addition, the president recalls that that it is high time to swear in the Constitutional Court, which in its turn should produce its own conclusions about the proposed amendments and addenda to the basic law.

People who spoke immediately after the reading of the president's message voiced their views on it. Some deputies demanded that the Constitutional Court should report on the work it has done, and that since its present membership has not been approved by the new parliament, this should be discussed first in committee and later at a session.

After 1600 yesterday the deputies proceeded to the second issue on the agenda—amendments and addenda to the republic's Constitution.

Today the Assembly of People's Representatives started work at 1000. Before it started, 55 deputies were registered. Credentials Committee Chairman Turdakun Usubaliyev announced a decision by the Central Election Commission's to approve the powers of a deputy elected to the Assembly of People's Representatives. This was deputy Mitalip Mamytov from Kokdzhar constituency. [end recording]

Party Members Reject Extending Presidents' Term of Office

LD1204202195 Bishkek VECHERNIY BISHKEK in Russian 11 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Party members gave a categorical "no" to the initiative of a group of deputies to extend the president's term of office to the year 2000. This opinion was expressed at a "roundtable" meeting organized by the Communists, Republicans, and representatives of the Erk and Ata-Meken parties, and the Party of Kyrgyzstan's Unity.

The Constitution, which does not provide for such a possibility, was quoted as an argument. According to Articles 43 and 44, the head of the state is elected for 5 years, but not for more than two terms in succession.

Special emphasis was put on the fact that the president has already held a referendum which confirmed his powers until October 1996. Nor did they forget to mention Article 2, which says that nobody is entitled to usurp power in the state (the gravest crime). The extension of powers (if it happens) is in fact a usurpation of power, the participants stated.

Another way of solving the problem was discussed—to hold a referendum on making amendments to the Constitution in order to allow the president's term to be extended. However, the members failed to reach unanimity on this, even though the call, "Could Kyrgyzstan be called a democratic state in that case," was heard.

Members of the intelligentsia and some of the corps of deputies took part in the work of the "roundtable" meeting. The leaders of other parties along with their teams did not show up at this event.

Tajikistan

Reportage, Commentary on Border Conflicts

General Threatens Rebels With Air Attacks

LD1204134595 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armed Tajik opposition detachments have encircled border troop subunits on the territory of Rushan and Vanch districts and in Khorog itself, NEGA agency has reported from Gorno- Badakhshan.

The same agency reported that the UN military observers today gave (Mujnun Pallayev), commander of the detachments of opposition forces in Gorno-Badakhshan an ultimatum from Lieutenant-General Anatoliy Chechulin.

The document states that if the armed opposition detachments fail to lift the siege of the border troop subunits, its positions will be bombed by helicopters.

Pallayev rejected the ultimatum and demanded that the Russian border troops and the Tajik Government forces cease military operations.

Thirty-four Border Guards Killed 7-12 Apr

LD1204140195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 121117 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 12 (INTERFAX)—Thirty-four border guards, among them 3 Russian citizens, 17 members of the Kazakh battalion and 14 Tajik servicemen, were killed on the Tajik-Afghan border on April 7-12, as a result of the opposition militants' invigorated actions. Seventy-nine servicemen were wounded, the Russian Federal Border Service's information agency told Interfax.

The Federal Border Service anticipates provocations in other sections of the Tajik-Afghan border as well. According to military sources, in the morning April 11, residents of the Afghan villages of Samty and Varicha bordering on the 10th border post of the Moskovsky detachment, moved up to the mountains. Earlier, similar movement had been observed on the eve of the militants' provocations in the sections controlled by the 10th and 11th border posts.

According to military intelligence, after the arrival of a border-guard reserve and airborne troops to the Khorog border-guard unit (the Vanch direction), the militants "eased their offensive". The opposition formations are regrouping their forces. They have requested reserves and ammunition to regain the lost positions.

Russian Commanders Accuse Opposition of Hypocrisy

LD1204160695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1513 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 12 TASS—Russian military commanders denounced Tajik opposition leaders' statements about their commitment to a political settlement of the conflict, terming them empty declarations and hypocrisy.

The press center of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan told ITAR-TASS on Wednesday that the military commanders had obtained trustworthy information indicating that said Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Revival of Tajikistan movement, had ordered his forces to destroy border posts in the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region.

The press center cited as an example the continuing heavy artillery and mortar shelling of Border Post No. 1 of the Khorog border guards unit near the village of Vanch.

Another sign are the escalating hostilities against border guards and the advancement of a group of Tajik militants from the Afghan village of Baharak to the border with Tajikistan.

To prevent their crossing into Tajikistan, Russian Border Guards together with Kyrgyz soldiers stepped up security on mountain paths and roads in this section of the border.

The Russian military commanders have once again urged Tajik field commanders to show common sense, and immediately cease fire and begin negotiations to resolve all disputes.

The Tajik administration said that president Emomali Rakhmanov had welcomed the idea proposed by the U.N. secretary general's special envoy Ramiro Piriz-Ballon to hold an urgent meeting between the Tajik authorities and the opposition leaders. Rakhmanov is also ready to immediately enter into talks with the opposition in Moscow. However, the opposition has not responded to the proposal so far.

Tajik-Afghan Border Troubled by Rebels But Under Control

LD1204190695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1850 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 12 ITAR-TASS—Director of the Russian Federal Border Service Lieutenant-General Andrey Nikolayev spoke to a news conference here today.

Speaking of the Tajik-Afghan border, which is jointly guarded by Russia, Kazakhstan and Tajikistan, Nikolayev said the situation there was controlled yet troublesome.

Since October 20, 1994, when a cease-fire agreement between the Tajik Government and the opposition came into effect, Afghanistan-based Tajik rebels violated the agreement more than 90 times.

There have been some 60 bids of armed rebel inroads and 40 cross-border shellings of Russian border guards.

General Nikolayev said the border guards identified and destroyed three barges with arms, ten ammunition dumps, and the rebels' liaison point. Seventy-two assault rifles, two grenade launchers, scores of grenades and mines, some 1,000 rounds of ammunition and 46 kg of drugs have been seized.

Nikolayev said intelligence at the disposal of the Russian Federal Service indicated the Tajik opposition's plans to step up cross-border attacks in the spring.

The service had braced for them, increasing the number of outposts and making other reinforcements.

This, Nikolayev said, prevented a greater casualty toll in the recent assault on the border troop armoured column near Poshkharb, Gozdara Gorge.

The personnel of the column had been increased to 200, or four times the usual figure. Nikolayev said the Kazakh contingent took most of the blow because it was in the column's centre.

The attacks mounted by the Tajik rebels between April 7 and 12 claimed lives of 34 border guards, including three of Russia, 17 of Kazakhstan and 14 of Tajikistan. Seventy-nine were wounded or got shell shock. The rebels' casualties were 160 killed and a similar number wounded.

Nikolayev said a reinforcement package is being implemented on the Tajik-Afghan border. While the border force was 5,000 in 1992, more than 18,000 troops have been stationed in the region this year. Armour of the border troops has been built up. According to the Federal Border Service director, these forces are adequate for their tasks.

General Nikolayev said shellings of the Afghan territory by the border troops were feasible only when required to suppress rebel cross-border fire. The troops usually use small arms.

Nikolayev ruled out the use of the Russian Airforce in Afghanistan's territory.

"The border guards do not have planes able of bombing. Now in- fighting using the Airforce among other things is going on within Afghanistan between warring armed factions," Nikolayev pointed out.

As for future interaction of Russian border troops with joint peace-keeping forces in Tajikistan and with the Russian 201st Division deployed there, Nikolayev said he did not see any problems. The mutual backing of these forces is envisioned by previous agreements of CIS members to contribute to safeguarding of stability of their external rims.

Opposition Expanding Armed Resistance in Pamirs

LD1204214295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The recalcitrant Tajik opposition is expanding the front of armed resistance in the Pamirs. Sayed Abdullo Nuri, leader of the Islamic Rebirth of Tajikistan movement, has ordered his fighters to destroy border posts in the direction of Badakhshan. Russian Border Troops Commander Andrey Nikolayev told our correspondent how the operational situation is currently developing on the Tajik-Afghan border.

[Begin Nikolayev recording] Some of the militant opposition groups have consolidated their positions on the territories of Kalai-Khumb and Vanch districts, where they have set up strongholds in inaccessible gorges. These formations, interacting with an approximately 4,000-strong main group stationed in Afghan Badakhshan, seek to create favorable conditions to move fighters and arms across the border on this section. [end recording]

Opposition Forces Continue Firing on Border Post

LD1304081495 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As has been reported by the press center of the Russian border troops in Tajikistan, the situation around the first border outpost of the Khorog border guard detachment remains complicated.

The guerrillas of the armed Tajik opposition, having lost 24 persons, are not carrying out assault operations but they have stepped up their firing. The enemy is intensively firing, ceaselessly using mortars and recoilless guns. Despite this the border post is being reinforced by an airborne assault group and has been restocked with ammunition and food. Border post personnel are carrying out combat operations from a reinforced position with support from military helicopters. The situation is stable and under control: There have been no casualties among the border guards.

There have been reports that Tajik opposition leaders are attempting to transfer reserves to the battlefields via the Afghan locality of Barak. Their routes have been cut off by border guard personnel, including the Kyrgyz contingent.

Border Situation Remains 'Tense'; Helicopters Conduct Raids

LD1304103595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0943 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 13 Apr—The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border remains tense. An ITAR-TASS correspondent learned at the Russian Federal Border Service's information agency today that armed operations against the first border post of the Khorog border detachment continued through Wednesday. All through the day irregulars shelled the stronghold of border guards with firearms, mortars, and recoilless guns.

The mortar position of the irregulars was suppressed by return fire. A reconnaissance group captured an UAZ-469 motor vehicle with ammunition for firearms and mortars. As a result of a shoot-out a border guard was wounded and later died.

In conjunction with the aviation of the CIS peacekeeping forces, the helicopters of border troops dealt missile and bomb strikes against groups of irregulars and their firing positions. While carrying out a military task a Mi-8 helicopter was damaged but the experienced crew managed to land the combat vehicle safely.

On 12 April the helicopters carried out 20 raids altogether.

Regional Body Backs President, Urges Peace With Opposition

LD1304114095 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 0400 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] For three years Gornyy Badakhshan Autonomous Region has been involved in daily border clashes. Now this corner of the country, which used to be the most peaceful one, has again become an area of military operations through the opposition's fault. This carries with it the danger of the annihilation of the small ethnic groups who live in the Pamir mountains.

Recent military operations against the border detachments in the Kalaikhumb and Khorog sectors, and particularly the military operation in Dasht-i Yazgulem provoked by the guerrillas, have caused major losses, and not only among border guards and guerrillas.

They have also made the government of the Gornyy Badakhshan Autonomous Region concerned for the civilians' future. In an appeal to the people of Gornyy Badakhshan, the regional government announced its support and approval of President Emomali Rakhmanov's address to the United Nations and Russian President Boris Yeltsin, the chairman of the council of heads of CIS countries. The address contains an appeal for assistance in preventing border conflicts and the peaceful resolution of matters between the government of Tajikistan and the opposition.

Leaders Gather For Funeral of Russian Border Troops

LD1304082495 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Russian 1000 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A funeral service was held yesterday at a military unit of the Russian Border Troops group in Tajikistan. Final respects were paid to 21 border troops from the Kazakh battalion and the Russian Border Troops group in Tajikistan. They died in a battle against Tajik opposition formations that continued for many hours on 7 April in the Kalaikhumb border detachment sector.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmanov; National Assembly chairman Safarali Rajabov and his deputies; the chairmen of the Supreme Assembly committees; the first deputy prime minister; the deputy prime ministers; ministers; the Russian ambassador to Tajikistan, Mecheslav Senkevich; Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Vladimir Alesin; and Russian and Tajik military commanders came to say a last farewell. In this prolonged armed clash, the border troops showed heroism and fearlessness, and remained faithful to their military duty until the end. The people of Tajikistan will never forget their feat.

At the funeral meeting Kazakh Deputy Foreign Minister Alesin said Kazakhstan is mourning the border troops who died while defending the southern frontier of the CIS. He condemned the armed actions of the opposition.

President Emomali Rakhmanov made a speech at the funeral meeting. He said Tajikistan will never forget the border troops' action, and will keep this feat of heroes as a sacred memory. Friendship forged in battle and soaked with blood is unshakable, he said. Emomali Rakhmanov expressed his condolences to the parents, families, and relatives of the border troops who died.

The situation in the conflict zone is now under control. Dozens of guerrillas have been eliminated. Their dugouts have been knocked out. The provocation on the southern CIS border will soon be stopped, Rakhmanov said. Steps have been taken to ensure that the bandits receive their just deserts. Nowadays the world knows for sure who is really guilty for the cruelty and bloodshed on the border. Military honors were paid to the border guards who died.

'Reliable Sources': Opposition Ready for Talks

LD1304105895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1028 GMT 13 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dushanbe April 13 TASS--Tajik opposition leaders are ready to start talks, ITAR-TASS learned today from reliable sources, who attended today a funeral service for eleven frontier guard from the frontier guard contingent in Tajikistan. The Dushanbe authorities expressed readiness for talks on April 12.

The funeral service for the frontier guards, killed on April 8-10 at the Tajik-Afghan border, was held on the territory of one of the army units in a Dushanbe suburb. Three Russians and eight Tajiks were killed in armed clashes with opposition fighters in the villages of Dashi-Yazgul and Kalot.

The funeral service was attended by chairman of the national parliament of tajikistan Safarali Rajabov, first deputy prime minister of the republic Mahmadsaid Ubaydullayev, commander of the Russian frontier guard troops in Tajikistan Lieutenant General Anatoliy Chechulin, senior officials from the Tajik Ministries of Security and Defence, as well as officers and men from the units of the killed frontier guards.

Thirty five Kazakh, Russian and Tajik frontier guards were killed between April 7 and 12, defending the southern borders of CIS. The last of them died of wounds last night.

EU Grants Dushanbe Further Aid

LD1204165795 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0800 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The EU Commission has allocated Tajikistan 5 billion Ecu in 1995 to buy food products, and 2,13 billion ECU for various other forms of assistance. This aid will be forwarded to the republic up until the end of the year. It should be mentioned that the EU mission has been operating in our republic since 1993, and has rendered frequent humanitarian assistance to our country's residents. Up to now, this organization has granted aid totalling 9 billion Ecu for our country's needy residents and those who have sustained losses from the senseless war.

Moscow Prompts Tajikistan To Withdraw From Ruble Zone

MK1304072995 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Konstantin Levin: "Dushanbe Prefers Its Own Currency"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last year the idea of reanimating the ruble zone seemed to be finally buried. One only had to uncouple the last ruble car—Tajikistan—but Moscow again promised to prolong for an indefinite term the circulation of the Russian cash ruble on the territory of the Central Asian republic. Having secured the continuation of Russian financial assistance, Dushanbe nonetheless decided in early April to reorient its currency policy and to stop using the Russian currency. Yesterday the group of Russian advisers in Tajikistan also in effect approved the republic parliament's decision to pull out of the ruble zone. [passage omitted]

Russia's economic assistance to Tajikistan is, strictly speaking, not a solution to integration problems in the CIS. By rendering Dushanbe not only military-political but also financial assistance, Moscow primarily pursues geopolitical interests in the Central Asian region. Ruble injections into Tajikistan's war-devastated economy are unprecedented. In addition to non-cash credits, the Russian Central Bank has already made 120 billion cash rubles available to the Tajikistan National Bank, and there were plans to provide another 20 billion. The price of political interests, however, has proved to be too high for Moscow, and therefore it effectively prompted the Tajikistani parliament to adopt the decision to introduce a national currency in the republic.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Calls Germany 'Leading West European Partner'

LD1204200195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1610 GMT 12 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Germany is "the leading West European partner of Uzbekistan", Uzbek President Islam Karimov told visiting German President Roman Herzog on Tuesday in Tashkent. Herzog is staying in Uzbekistan on an official three-day visit.

Karimov stressed that the necessary condition for building new Uzbek society is public-political stability of the state and peace and tranquility in the neighboring nations. "All of us are living in the single and intertwined world, whose security can either be universal or absent at all," said the Uzbek leader.

"That is why, we are alarmed with the situation in the Southern part of our region and call on the international community to take efficient measures for settlement of explosive conflicts," added Karimov. He believes it is necessary "to prevent spreading of armaments and drugs, as well as religious extremism and terrorism from the region."

In his turn, Herzog noted the German desire to "have a strong partner of Uzbekistan." He praised efforts taken by the republican leaders to consolidate peace, stability and inter-ethnic accord in the Central Asia.

The president said that the situation in the major and densely- populated region of Central Asia much depends on active foreign political actions of Uzbekistan who has the most important geo- strategic position there.

On Tuesday the sided signed an agreement on German military graves in Uzbekistan and a joint statement on free travelling.

Today Herzog left for Samarkand and Bukhara being accompanied by Islam Karimov. Experts believe that this fact testifies to a "special attitude of Tashkent to Bonn". (For instance, Indonesian President Suharto was accompanied by Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulkhashim Mutalov when on an official visit to Uzbekistan.)

The one-day trip of the German President includes a sight-seeing tour, visits to local industrial enterprises and meetings with heads of local administrations.

The presidents are expected to return to Tashkent tonight. IF Note: The Uzbek-German goods turnover is expected to reach DM 1 billion in 1995. The Central Asian republic has several dozens of joint ventures and offices of German firms of Siemens, Lufthansa, Deutschebank and Berlinerbank.

Germany Interested in Cooperation With Tashkent

LD1204163395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1201 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vilor Niyazmatov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent April 4 TASS—"We are very much interested in expanding cooperation with Uzbekistan. We pin great hopes on it," German President Roman Herzog, currently paying an official visit here, told journalists after the first round of talks with his Uzbek counterpart Islam Karimov, which ended on Tuesday.

After a short respite, the head of the German state had an eye-to-eye talk with Karimov. Then the meeting of the leaders of the two countries continued in a broader format and was rounded off by the signing of several documents. They include, in particular, a declaration on relations between Uzbekistan and Germany and an agreement on the free movement of the citizens of the two countries across their territories.

"We have every reason to presume that relations between Uzbekistan and Germany will develop actively not only in the economic domain," Karimov told journalists. "These relations will be equally intensive in all the other area, too. They will meet the interests of the two countries and peoples."

Herzog, Karimov Visit Ancient Bukhara

LD1204210495 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Uzbek 1600 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] This afternoon the presidents of Germany and Uzbekistan arrived in ancient Bukhara.

At Bukhara Airport, decorated with the state flags of the two countries, the two presidents, Roman Herzog and Islam Karimov, and their wives were met by Mavlon Rakhmonov, head of Bukhara region administration, and other officials. Girls in national costume proffered spring flowers. [passage omitted: on visiting the city sights]

The Mir-Arab medrese left a great impression on the high-ranking guest. He said the following to us about his impression:

[Begin Herzog recording, in German with superimposed Uzbek translation] For years I have dreamed of visiting and seeing your beautiful country, and at last, today, I have achieved my wish. Reading from books and hearing about it is not the same. How amazing it is to see with your own eyes. To tell the truth, one cannot help but admire the skill and art of your ancestors. [end recording]

The visit to Bukhara was accompanied by Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Komilov, Karl-Heinz Kuhna, the ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Germany to Uzbekistan, and other officials.

Foreign Ministry Calls for Peaceful Solution in Tajikistan

LD1204142595 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Uzbek Foreign Ministry has called on the Tajik opposition to refrain from any method of resolving the crisis involving the use of arms and condemned all provocations directed at a further destabilization of the situation in Tajikistan.

A statement issued by the Uzbek Embassy in Moscow today notes that Tashkent made considerable efforts to enable the inter-Tajik dialogue to continue and to achieve national reconciliation.

In particular, president Islam Karimov has recently had a meeting with Tajik opposition leaders and stressed that a way out of the situation that has taken shape can only be found through political means.

Credit Agreement Ratified With Japanese Export-Import Bank

LD1204213895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1836 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tashkent, April 12 (PIA)—The government of Uzbekistan has ratified the credit agreement with the Export-Import Bank of Japan of March 31, 1995. Under the agreement, Uzbekistan's National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity will be extended a loan of $85 million.

The loan is meant to finance the development of the Kokdumalak oil and gas field, the biggest in Uzbekistan. The field is expected to yield 200 million tonnes of crude oil and gas condensate a year.

A Japanese Export-Import Bank official has said that this is the bank's first credit to Uzbekistan.

The Kokdumalak project's estimated cost is $160 million. It is financed by government sources (15 percent) and by the Export Import Bank of the United States, with which Tashkent concluded an agreement late last month.

Presidential Decree Amends Regulations on Barter Trade

LD1304102995 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 12 Apr 95 p 1

["Decree by the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan on additional measures on regulating import and export operations"—NARODNOYE SLOVO headline]

[FBIS Translated Text] It is to be noted that in spite of decisions which have been made, barter operations involving non-equivalent exchanges are still being carried out, timely and full receipts of taxes are not being ensured, nor are the obligatory sale of a proportion of hard currency receipts, on various pretexts, in foreign economic activity.

In view of the above:

1. The State Tax Committee (Gataulin) and the Prosecutor's Office of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Mustafayev) are instructed to analyze the position regarding this matter, based on the results of 1994 as well as for the first quarter of 1995, and to make proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers on bringing to account those guilty of breaching the decree by the president dated 9 July

1993 on eliminating breaches and abuses within export and import operations carried out on a barter basis.

2. Point 2 of the aforementioned decree is to be amended to state that export and import operations on a barter basis are admitted only as exceptions, with the permission of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakistan, and the regional and Tashkent city administrations.

3. When carrying out barter operations, for tax purposes the date of shipment is to be regarded as the moment of sale of output (work, services).

4. It is to be stipulated that all export contracts, including barter ones, including those registered with the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry of the Republic of Uzbekistan and authorized banks, are to be to be recorded at the Main Customs Department under the procedure established by the State Tax Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

5. In cases involving breaches of the procedure regarding the obligatory sale of hard currency receipts, the tax organizations are instructed to use financial sanctions and administrative fines against the guilty parties, applying the procedures and amounts established in the legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

6. The heads of the State Tax Committee, the Foreign Economic Relations Ministry and authorized banks are to be notified of their personal responsibility for adherence to the established procedures for export and import operations.

7. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan is to supervise fulfillment of this decree.

8. The decree comes into force from the moment of its publication.

[Signed] President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov, Tashkent city, 11 April 1995.

State Agency Completes Construction of Satellite

LD1104204195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1847 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TASHKENT, April 11 (Interfax)—Uzbekistan has finished making its own satellite, the Uzbek state agency Uzbekkosmos reported to Interfax Tuesday.

The first Uzbek satellite will be able to take photographs and to predict natural disasters. It can be also used as a communication spacecraft. The price of this space apparatus is $1.5 million. However, Uzbekistan needs $48 million more to implement the whole program of its launch.

Currently the Uzbek agency for space research has five large enterprises which it inherited from the former USSR and which specialized in creating space crafts. In the times of the USSR special devices to drill the surface of the Venus, Mars, and Moon were developed in Uzbekistan, in addition, the Soviet space shuttle Buran was tested in this republic.

Armenia

President Ter-Petrosyan Sums Up Visit to Bulgaria

LD1204230695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1550 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Abrosimov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Sofia, 12 Apr—Levon Ter-Petrosyan, the president of Armenia, who today completed his official visit to Bulgaria, has noted Russia's constructive position in the process of a settlement to the conflict around Nagorno-Karabakh. Replying to an ITAR-TASS correspondent's question, the head of the Armenian state stressed that the Russian side had played, among other things, an important mediatory role in achieving an agreement on the truce that has been in force for nearly a year between the sides drawn into the conflict. Giving a positive appraisal of what has been achieved in this area, L. Ter-Petrosyan also noted that Yerevan is not counting merely on international mediatory efforts, including those of European representatives, but is striving to maintain permanent direct contacts with Baku at all levels. When a special need arises he confers directly with Azerbaijani leader Heydar Aliyev, the Armenian head said.

At a final news conference in Sofia, together with his Bulgarian counterpart Zhelyu Zhelev, he disclosed certain basic results of the visit that they both said was a fruitful one. They attach particular significance to the treaty signed here on friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, which forms a solid legal foundation for the development of equal mutually advantageous relations for the future.

The Sofia dialogue took place on the eve of the summit meeting in Athens on 14 April, between the foreign ministers of the member-countries of the Black Sea Economic Cooperation (BSEC), which includes Bulgaria and Armenia. In this respect their presidents were unanimous that there is a clear need for increasing true interaction within the framework of the BSEC. From my point of view, Zh. Zhelev noted, the results that were anticipated were not particularly tangible, although Bulgaria makes no secret of its interest in cooperation with the countries of the region. L. Ter-Petrosyan agreed with his opinion, adding that such interaction is also of important significance for Armenia.

At the conclusion of his visit, he addressed deputies of the Bulgarian National Assembly (parliament), acquainting them with the pace of the democratic changes in Armenia.

Further on Economic Agreement With Iran, Turkmenistan

NC1204194095 Yerevan NOYAN TAPAN in English 1702 GMT 11 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 11/04/95 NOYAN TAPAN—As it was already reported a trilateral statement, containing willingness to cooperate in different economic spheres was made at the Tehran trilateral meeting with participation of the Foreign Ministers of Iran, Turkmenistan and Armenia. "This statement has nothing to do with policy",—the Armenian Deputy Foreign Minister Eduard Zuloian stated at the April 11 press conference.

The three sides reached consensus on transit conveyance of burden and passengers via Iranian territory—from Armenia to Turkmenistan. They also agreed to entitle Iran to use its territory for transportation via Turkmenistan and other CIS countries, and through the territory of Armenia—to Russia and Georgia.

A trilateral agreement on establishment of joint transportation enterprise was also reached. In the near future a meeting of experts for discussing the conditions of the establishment of the enterprise as well as its whereabouts is planned.

The Turkmenian side suggested transitional supply of gas, fuel and electric power via Iranian territory. In this connection the parties did not reached any consensus because this issue is connected with a number of technical as well as political difficulties. This problem will be studied by Iran and Armenia.

The Deputy Minister denied the supposition to the effect that an alliance or organization of any kind is established during the trilateral meeting. He pointed out that the meeting was dedicated to the prospects of economic cooperation only. The Ministers are to meet again in a month in Ashgabat in order to debate over these issues. Eduard Zuloian also pointed out that Georgia, Russia and Azerbaijan can also participate in the meeting.

The problems of cooperation in banking system were discussed at the meeting. In particular, the issue of mutual payments connected with the establishment of the joint enterprise was touched upon. According to the Deputy Minister, this declarative agreement needs scrupulous investigation.

In respond to the question does this meeting testify to the alteration of Azerbaijani-Iranian relations the Deputy Foreign Minister answered that the Azeri President Heydar Aliyev was not present at the inauguration of the railway Bafq-Bandar 'Abbas, where the agreement on trilateral meeting was reached. "If he visited Bandar 'Abbas I can not say what kind of agreement would be reached—trilateral or quadrilateral".

Azerbaijan

President Aliyev Confers With Turkey's Ciller

LD1204224995 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1400 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Translated Text] Baku, 12 Apr—Issues relating to strengthening bilateral political and economic ties dominated the talks held in Baku this afternoon between Azerbaijani President Heydar Aliyev and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller, who has arrived on a brief working visit. The Turkish prime minister will attend the signing ceremony of a contract conceding to the Turkish oil company, "Turkish Petroleum," a 5-percent share of the Azerbaijani state oil company's investments in the project to develop the Caspian shelf oilfields.

The interlocutors exchanged opinions on problems concerning the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict, and Turkey's expected participation in the OSCE peacekeeping forces which, following the decisions of the Budapest summit of the heads of OSCE member-states, are to be established in order to separate the warring sides. The adherence of both sides to a ceasefire in the last 11 months before a major political agreement on the settlement of the Karabakh problem is signed was described as an important moment in the peacekeeping process.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent has learned from confidential sources that Baku expects Tansu Ciller to raise these issues during her meeting with US President Bill Clinton, which is be held in Washington on 16 April. According to Foreign Minister Hasan Hasanov, "regarding certain issues, Turkey is pursuing Azerbaijan's line and in its own foreign policy Turkey often touches upon problems which are of interest to Azerbaijan."

During the talks economic issues were touched upon. In particular the two sides discussed Turkish investment in Azerbaijan's economy, and joint projects in the sphere of oil and gas production.

The laying of an export pipeline, which in 54 months' time will carry Azeri oil from the Caspian shelf to the West, was discussed separately. Tansu Ciller did not make a secret of the fact that Turkey is interested in the pipeline going through its territory.

Turkey's Ciller Signs Oil Agreement

TA1204155795 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 1500 GMT 12 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report over video]

[FBIS Translated Text] The agreement that gives Turkey an additional 5-percent share in the international consortium that will drill and market the Caspian Sea oil reserves has been signed. Prime Minister Ciller and Fuat Guliyev, first deputy prime minister of Azerbaijan, signed the agreement in Baku. The agreement was also signed by Sidki Sancar, director general of the Turkish Petroleum Corporation, and (Natik Aliyev), president of the Azerbaijani national petroleum corporation.

Turkish Radio and Television correspondent Enver Delikci reports from Baku that Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev, who participated in the signing ceremony, said that the decision on increasing Turkey's share in the consortium was made in view of the ties of friendship and brotherhood between the two countries. Ciller will return to Turkey tonight.

Further on Signing of Oil Deal

LD1204185395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1605 GMT 12 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS corrspondents Sevinj Abdullaeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku April 12 TASS—Azerbaijan and Turkey have signed an agreement transferring to Turkey 5 percent stake in an international concortium to develop three oil fields in the Caspian Sea.

Azeri Acting Prime Minister Fuat Guliyev and Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller signed the agreement increasing the stake of "Turkish Petroleum" to 6.25 per cent in the multi-billion dollar deal.

President Heydar Aliyev of Azerbaijan said that "Baku views the agreement as an important step in strengthening the bilateral mutually advantageous cooperation".

Meanwhile, Russian party in the consortium, LUKoil expressed doubts about the validity of the deal. Speaking to TASS on Wednesday, a LUKoil representative stressed that any share transferring agreement must be approved by the consortium's board, the next sitting of which is scheduled for May.

Previously, Baku planned a sell 5 per cent of its stock to Iran but cancelled the deal under pressure from the United States.

Georgia

Shevardnadze 'Ashamed' of Treatment of Ethnic Minorities

AU1204062795 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 28 Mar 95 pp 1, 3

[Speech by Georgian Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze at the forum of the Union of Georgia's Citizens in Tbilisi on 19 March: "Eduard Shevardnadze: 'Georgia Will Become a Prosperous Country'"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] On 18 and 19 March, a forum of the Union of Georgia's Citizens was held in Tbilisi that was devoted to questions concerning the participation of ethnic minorities living in the republic in the sociopolitical and socioeconomic life of the country. [passage omitted]

Head of State Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Union of Georgia's Citizens, delivered a speech at the forum. He pointed out that this forum was not an ordinary event, given everything that had happened in our country during the last few years. The forum can be viewed as a landmark. Representatives of almost all nationalities living in Georgia—in the main, ethnic minorities, as they are referred to—have gathered here, said Eduard Shevardnadze. This stereotype has become established on an international scale and, insofar as our task today is indeed to protect people of different nationalities living in states, we also will probably have to reconcile ourselves to this term, although I do not believe that there exist small peoples, big peoples, and so forth. I believe that each people is big in its own way, including even those that are small in number. Taking into account the historical path that has been trodden and the exceptionally important contribution made by our ancestors, I would say unique contribution toward the development of world civilization, we are all great peoples. Therefore, it was not by chance that I said that our meeting today was, without doubt, a landmark.

Why do I emphasize the significance of today's meeting? From 1989, particularly following our declaration of independence, processes in our republic have most regrettably acquired a hypertrophied character. It is difficult today to recall everything that has occurred during the last few years. The Georgian-Ossetian conflict.... It is not just about the conflict, but about its causes, what gave rise to it.

We should admit that persecutions were organized here in Tbilisi, and not only in Tbilisi, but also in the Borzhomi gorge and in many other towns and rayons. One feels ashamed to talk about what happened when Ossetians were dismissed from their jobs and evicted from their apartments. This is a disgrace, a disgrace that gives me and you and all citizens of Georgia no peace. I do not wish to say that there were only angels on the other side. They also had people who contributed to what happened. However, we—both the former and present leaders—and society as a whole cannot justify what happened. I am grateful to the representative of the Azeri population in Georgia who has spoken today and who, I would say, acted nobly in not mentioning the facts that took place in Dmanisskiy rayon from where dozens, hundreds, thousands of people were forcibly expelled for the sole reason that they were Azeris. Unfortunately, the same thing happened to citizens of other nationalities. It pains me to hear that Russians are leaving Georgia. True, Professor Bogomolov did point out that this was not occurring on a large scale. Thank God for this. It grieved me when I visited the aviation plant in Tbilisi and did not meet my old friends and acquaintances with whom we had constructed a fine plane. It grieved me when I visited the ship-repair yard in Poti and learned that approximately 50-60 percent of the most qualified workers and their offspring had left this town. It pains me when I see that many Armenians, particularly representatives of the intelligentsia, have left Tbilisi. I can say the same thing about my friends and fellow citizens of Jewish, Greek, and other nationalities.

Why have I touched upon these painful problems? We know from our own experience what is meant by genocide, unjust treatment toward a people. This has taken place in Abkhazia. It is precisely there that we are dealing with real genocide and savagery. This is what it has been called. This is precisely how it has been termed—ethnic cleansing not only with regard to Georgians but also Abkhazians themselves. My friend, who was a famous public figure and statesman, an Armenian by nationality, and deputy chairman of the [Abkhazian] Council of Ministers and a Supreme Council deputy, was shot simply for telling the truth and for standing up against fascism and fascist separatism. I do not want to name now those Abkhazians who were shot along with certain representatives of other nationalities, not to mention Georgians—there are thousands and thousands of them. We should put an end to these disgraceful events in our country's history and, once we have done so, we will return to Abkhazia and South Ossetia—Georgians, Ossetians, Abkhazians, Greeks, Armenians, and Abkhazians. We will return as full-fledged citizens with equal rights, citizens of a modern democratic Georgia that is united, indivisible, and whole.

I feel ashamed when I am reminded of the slogan "Georgia for Georgians." Only fascists could be guided by such a slogan. Therefore, it is not by chance that I have called that regime, which you know very well, provincial fascism. This is a shameful stain on our conscience and in the history of our people. Thank God, we are finished with this. Why is it necessary to have a law on ethnic minorities? Perhaps in 20 to 30 years we will recall this law and say: In what times did we live? We had to adopt a law to protect citizens who were representatives of ethnic minorities. This is necessary today so that all citizens of a democratic state have firm guarantees from the state regarding their security and rights—the right to education, the right to own property, the right to medical treatment, the right to promotion in their work, and many other rights, including political rights. We will do everything to get the current Parliament to adopt such a law in the near future. We will see to it that the Constitution, on whose draft we are currently working, meets or, more correctly, corresponds to the highest European and world standards and takes into account the protection of the interests of all citizens—Georgians, Russians, Armenians, Azeris, Jews, Kurds, Assyrians, everyone. We are creating such a Constitution; its basic outlines are already taking shape. The principles of federalism will be laid on the basis of this Constitution so that the present autonomies can also find their place and have guarantees that they will possess all the rights necessary to protect all the citizens of these regions and their legal rights. I am in favor of a kray structure. We will see. We will work for a few more months. Many are arguing with me; the representatives of certain rayons and some historians are reminding me of the feudal stage in the development of our state, separatism, so to speak, and so forth. However, I think that, if we draw up the Constitution in a competent manner, if we are able to build a state with a strong centralized power, a strong center, and strong peripheries, we will ensure its unity and integrity.

I agree with those speakers who spoke of the necessity of forming strong presidential power. There is no other alternative in the next 10-15 years and perhaps longer. Georgia needs strong rule. It is not important who will be elected. This is a different matter. I think our peoples have become more clever. I apologize for this not very felicitous phrase. It is more correct to say that we have grown wise and we will not be mistaken in our choice; we will choose a worthy president who will become in reality the guarantor of the freedom of each citizen and a democratic structure and the democratic guarantee of the indivisibility of the state. However, I favor a strong Parliament. At the moment, a two-chamber system is shaping out; at any rate, precisely such a system is being proposed in the first variant of the Constitution—the election of a senate and a council of the republic. Such an approach and such a principle will enable us to have representatives from all regions and all nations and nationalities living in Georgia in the supreme legislative bodies. It is our big mistake and failure that we have only literally a few representatives of other nations and peoples in the current Parliament. This does not do us any credit and does not correspond to the centuries-old traditions of good will, tolerance, and friendship and brotherhood of all peoples living in Georgia. These words were not invented by the Communists. Even during the time of David the Builder [1089-1125], and before and after him, Georgians, Armenians, Azeris, Jews, and other nationalities knew how to live in one state. We should value these great traditions and not only and not so much in word. Such a principle should be celebrated and find its concrete expression. I have in mind specific persons—the representatives of different peoples—in Parliament, the chambers, and executive power. I have to admit that these interests are currently being ignored when, to all intents and purposes, no other peoples are represented in the ministries, departments, Cabinet of Ministers, and also the apparatus of the head of state. We should correct this. However, we should not wait until the Constitution has been adopted. People have spoken here. These were mature, clever, and fine speeches from the point of view of their conceptual and concrete form and how much magnanimity was expressed in them. Each of you can be invited into the republic's governing bodies. Moreover, this would be useful for the country and the state. Democratic structures and democratic principles of building a state imply the broadest representation of different strata and different nations and nationalities both in executive and legislative power.

I know that certain opponents will criticize me for what I have said today. However, this is my credo and conviction and not only mine; this is the guiding principle of that organization on whose initiative we have gathered today. [passage omitted]

Shevardnadze Views Abkhaz Conflict, Chechnya

AU1304121095 Hamburg STERN in German 12 Apr 95 p 242

[Interview with Georgian President Eduard Shevardnadze by Matthias Schepp; place and date not given: "What Has Happened to Eduard Shevardnadze...."]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Schepp] Mr. President, do you sometimes talk on the telephone with Hans-Dietrich Genscher?

[Shevardnadze] We talk on the telephone, we write to each other, and sometimes I even talk with him in my mind. (Laughing) We are friends.

[Schepp] The world is looking toward the crisis-shaken Russia. Is the West forgetting the smaller states in the East?

[Shevardnadze] Attention must mainly focus on Russia. The fate of this country is decisive for all of us.

[Schepp] What about the smaller states?

[Shevardnadze] They are being neglected. This is a big danger: A small state may not be able to achieve a great deal but it can cause considerable harm. The numerous small flames of separatism can turn into an area conflagration for the whole of Europe.

[Schepp] The peoples are demanding self-determination.

[Shevardnadze] There are approximately 4,000 languages in the world, and numerous ethnic groups and religious communities. Can you imagine that the world might be divided into so many states? Separatism is an attempt to struggle for power against the constitution while accepting bloodshed.

[Schepp] Does this mean that you support the Russian intervention in Chechnya?

[Shevardnadze] By all means. Otherwise Russia would have faced a collapse.

[Schepp] Georgia has achieved independence from Moscow, but it denies the breakaway province of Abkhazia its sovereignty. A civil war is smoldering....

[Shevardnadze] Abkhazia is mainly populated by Georgians. Only 17 percent of Abkhazians are living there. Yet they chased away 300,000 Georgians with help from outside. Thousands were shot dead, and entire villages were burned down.

[Schepp] Russian peacemaking troops are now deployed in Abkhazia. The killing continues before their eyes in spite of ongoing negotiations....

[Shevardnadze] I tried to ensure the dispatch of a UN blue beret troop. The Security Council has adopted 10 resolutions designed to restore Georgia's integrity. Yet things exist only on paper. Georgia had no alternative but to entrust its fate to Russia. The United Nations does not show any teeth. Regimes that commit genocides must be isolated, and their politicians must be brought before an international tribunal.

[Schepp] Would you welcome German blue beret operations?

[Shevardnadze] Yes. Germany must assume a more active role and should be granted a seat in the UN

Security Council. Yet I believe that we are more interested in that than the Germans themselves. (Laughing)

[Schepp] In the Georgian capital Tbilisi, the electricity often fails for days. How can the economic crisis be overcome?

[Shevardnadze] Everything depends on whether there will be peace.

[Schepp] You need money from the West....

[Shevardnadze] ...as much as we need bread and water.

[Schepp] Gorbachev and Bush, your former colleagues who are no longer in office, are making quite a lot of money by giving lectures. You, however, are carrying a heavy burden. Are you not envious?

[Shevardnadze] No. If happiness exists at all, I am a happy man because I am with my people during the most difficult period for them.

Prime Minister, Iranian Ambassador Discuss Cooperation

LD1304113495 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1015 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—The press center of the Georgian Cabinet of Ministers reports that on 13 April, Georgian Prime Minister Otar Patsatsia received Fereidn Haqbin, Iran's ambassador to Georgia. They discussed political, economic, and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The two sides noted that it was necessary Iran and Georgia developed transport links and exchange students and specialists for training. Otar Patsatsia welcomed the impending visit to Georgia by Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, saying it was a historic event that would help widen contacts between the two countries.

Turkmenistan To Cut Gas Supply Due to Debt

LD1304111795 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1015 GMT 13 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi (IPRINDA)—An agency correspondent was told on 13 April at the Gruzgazi (Georgian gas) department that it had received a letter from Turkmenistan saying that as of 13 April, Turkmenistan would stop supplying Georgia with one million cubic meters of gas due to Georgia's debt (the above volume of gas was fed to the Gardabani thermal electric-power station).

At present Georgia is getting three million cubic meters of gas purchased by the Rustavi Metallurgical Works. In the words of Tamaz Gagua, the deputy head of the Gruzgazi department, members of the Georgian Trade Ministry are currently visiting Turkmenistan to negotiate gas supplies by barter.

Estonia

Meri Approves New Government

LD1204141995 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri approved the new government proposed by the candidate for prime minister Tiit Vahi in Kadriorg [president's residence] today.

The new government is made up of Prime Minister Tiit Vahi, Minister of Internal Affairs Edgar Savisaar, Minister of Justice Paul Varul, Minister of Foreign Affairs Riivo Sinijarv, Minister of Defence Andrus Oovel, Minister of Social Affairs Siiri Oviir, Minister of Economy Liina Tonisson, Minister of Culture and Education Peeter Kreitsberg, Minister for the Environment Villu Reiljan, Minister of Culture without portfolio Jaak Allik, Minister of European Affairs Endel Lippmaa, Minister of Finance Mart Opmann, Minister for Regional Policy without portfolio Ants Leemets, Minister of Agriculture Ilmar Mandmets and Roads and Communication Minister Kalev Kallo.

The Estonian president emphasized in his speech the need for the continuity and cooperation of governments—he mentioned the example of Sweden where changing governments work together for several weeks.

Members of New Vahi-Led Cabinet Profiled

WS1304105895 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 12, BNS—Estonian President Lennart Meri Wednesday approved the make-up of his country's new government as proposed by Prime Minister Tiit Vahi.

Meri signed the decision in the afternoon after Vahi had presented the candidate ministers to him. The new Cabinet will probably be sworn in on Monday.

This is Vahi's second time around as head of government: he was the second premier of the newly independent Republic of Estonia from January until October 1992.

The new government's Interior Minister Edgar Savisaar (Center Party), 44, was at the head of the Cabinet in 1990-1992. He is a graduate of Tartu University in history and has a master's degree.

Social Affairs Minister Siiri Oviir (Center Party), 47, held the same post in Savisaar's administration. She has a juridical education and was chairwoman of the Supreme Court in 1975-1990.

Justice Minister Paul Varul (KMU [Coalition Party and Rural Union]), 44, formerly a practicing lawyer, is a Tartu University professor and heads the Private Law Institute at the university.

Foreign Minister Riivo Sinijarv (KMU), is Estonia's current ambassador to Britain. He was previously deputy minister for industry.

Defense Minister Andrus Oovel's last job was that of adviser to the Tallinn Citu Council. Oovel (KMU), 37, is a law graduate of Tartu University.

Economics Minister Liina Tonisson (Center Party), 54, is a graduate of the Tallinn Technical University in economics and chaired the parliamentary economics commission.

Culture and Education Minister Peeter Kreitzberg (Center Party) is a professor at Tartu University's Faculty of Philosophy and heads the university's pedagogy center.

Environment Minister Villu Reiljan (KMU), 41, studied forestry at the Estonian Agricultural Academy and was until now director of a higher forestry school.

Culture Minister without portfolio Jaak Allik (KMU), 48, is a history graduate of Tartu University. His last job was that of art director of the Ugala Theater in the central Estonian town of Viljandi.

Endel Lippmaa, 64, the minister without portfolio for European affairs (KMU), is a chemist by education. He headed the Institute of Chemical Physics and Biophysics of the Estonian Academy of Sciences and was elected chairman of the parliamentary foreign affairs commission before his nomination.

Finance Minister Mart Opmann (KMU), 39, was until now vice chairman of the Raepank board. He held the post of deputy economics minister in both Vahi's and Savisaar's administration.

Ants Leemets (KMU), 44, the minister without portfolio for regional policy, was until his nomination head of the northeastern Laane-Virumaa county.

Agriculture Minister Ilmar Mandmets (KMU), 50, studied agronomy at the Estonian Agricultural Academy and foreign economic relations at Tartu University. He has no party affiliation.

Transportation and Communications Minister Kalev Kallo (Center Party), 46, was until now director of the Tallinn Municipal Construction Enterprise. He is deputy chairman of the Center Party.

Members of New Cabinet Cite Plans, Goals

WS1304105995 Tallinn ETA in English 0832 GMT 13 Apr 95

[From RAHVA HAAL, April 13, p. 1; "News Bulletin" No. 75/95]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ministers of the new cabinet told the journalists about their plans for the nearest future. Defence Minister Andrus Oovel pointed out two main problems of the ministry—the issue of property, including the ex-Soviet sites, new buildings and military hardware and the military-strategic direction with the necessary legal foundation. "If we manage with these two tasks, we can also speak of efficient national defence," Oovel said.

Economy Minister Liina Tonisson announced that she will first determine the strategy of tasks of the Economy Ministry. She assured that the plans do not imply a disorder or inefficiency of the ministry.

Interior Minister Edgar Savisaar promised to take measures for the increase of the public security. "It has dropped below the minimum by now," Savisaar commented. He promised to study the massive staff reorganisations of the recent years and characterised his predecessors Lagle Parek, Heiki Arike and Kaido Kama as great reformers. Savisaar added that the Interior Ministry seemed to suffer from a sense of temporariness, caused by the frequent replacements.

Minister for European reforms Endel Lippmaa considered it his primary task to achieve that Estonia became a normal European country as soon as possible. It should be possible to complete it in the nearest few years, Lippmaa said.

Culture Minister Jaak Allik said that he had not yet discussed the division of work with Culture and Education Minister Peeter Kreitzberg, but they both, as well as Premier Tiit Vahi agreed that the ministries should be separated from each other. The present regrettable state must have been caused by the excessively wide sphere of work, Allik said.

Meri Explains Reasons for Not Attending Moscow VE Ceremony

LD1204205695 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1700 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri this afternoon received Russia's Ambassador to Estonia Aleksandr Trofimov. At the meeting, Lennart Meri explained to the ambassador the reasons which do not allow the president of the Republic of Estonia to take part in the 9 May celebrations in Moscow.

The Estonian people and its president, together with the democratic world, are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the destruction of the Third Reich, which was based on totalitarian Nazi ideology. However, 9 May is not marking the end of World War II for Estonia. For the Estonian state and people, World War II ended on 31 August 1994 when the last foreign troops left Estonian soil.

Estonia hoped that Russia would distance itself, in an unequivocal manner, from the aggressive Stalinist foreign policy, the first victims of which were Poland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Finland. The president of the Russian Federation has done this on his visits to Warsaw, Bratislava, Prague, and Budapest. In the case of Estonia and the other Baltic states, this has not been done. Estonia is in favor of forming normal and fruitful relations with the Russian Federation. Friendly and trusting cooperation requires settling accounts with the injustice of the past.

President Meri handed over to Ambassador Trofimov a letter to this end addressed to President Boris Yeltsin.

Sinijarv Views Signing of EU Associate Membership Draft

WS1304111895 Tallinn ETA in English 1529 GMT 12 Apr 95

["News Release"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] European Union (EU) and Estonia initialled the Europe Agreement on Wednesday in Brussels, which is expected to take Estonia much closer to the 12-nation EU. It was also first of the similar association agreements concluded with Central and East European states that does not include a transition period.

Would-be foreign minister of the new government, Estonian Ambassador to UK and Northern Ireland Riivo Sinijarv told ETA that the fact that the Estonia could become an associated member of the EU without a transition period was the most important feature of the agreement.

The fact that the notion of the transition period is missing in the agreement indicates that Estonia has been "calm and right" in its steps, Sinijarv said. "It is an indicator that we have managed to keep a liberal economic policy line which especially as concerns foreign trade is important," he said.

In addition to free trade, the agreement on which was enforced on January 1, 1995, the association agreement includes movement of services, capital and labour and widespread cooperation on economy, science and technical issues and culture, but also on crime fighting between Estonia and the EU.

The agreement is of crucial importance to Estonia in coming closer to the EU, for in signing this agreement Estonia stepped in the same line with other Central and East European states, Taavi Toom, head of the Foreign Ministry EU working group has told ETA. EU has already concluded association agreements with Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria and the Czech Republic.

The initialling of the agreement today is a conclusion of a negotiation process that started on December 15, 1994. The talks concluded in fact on February 22 after three rounds of them, when Estonian delegation, led by deputy chancellor of Foreign Ministry Priit Kolbre could convince the delegation of European Commission and representatives of the 15 EU member states that there was no need, different from other similar agreements, for a transition period. European Commission and EU member states accepted that in Estonia reforms necessary for the transition to market economy had been largely carried out and required legislative acts adopted and thus the transition period was not necessary.

Foreign Ministry press service said the agreement is expected to be signed at the end of May this year.

Before it can be enforced it has to be ratified by the Estonian parliament, preceded by a memorandum. Also it has to be ratified by all member states of EU.

The other two Baltic states Latvia and Lithuania initialled the Europe Agreements also today in Brussels.

Latvia

Kanels Initials EU Associate Membership Draft

LD1204142495 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Brussels today, Juris Kanels, Latvian representative at the European Union and ambassador to Benelux countries, together with representatives of Estonia and Lithuania, initialled the basic text of a draft agreement on Latvia associate member status in the European Union. Thus, the process of coordinating the text of the agreement with the European Union Commission, which has been going on since 3 March this year, has ended.

As Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs forecast at a news conference yesterday, Latvia can sign the association agreement with the European Union at the beginning of June.

Saeima Passes Bill on Status of Noncitizens

LD1204125995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1200 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A bill on the status of the citizens of the former USSR who are not citizens of Latvia or any other state was passed in its final version at the Saeima plenary session today. The subjects of this law are those citizens of the former USSR living in Latvia who before 10 July 1993 had lived on Latvian territory, had been registered as residents, and who are not citizens of Latvia or any other state. The bill lays down the rights and duties of these people and stipulates that the noncitizen's passport issued in the Republic of Latvia is to be their identification document.

Lithuania

Russian Military Flights 'Considerably Limited'

WS1304095295 Tallinn BNS in English 1900 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 12, BNS—Lithuania has considerably limited the number of Russian military flights over its territory and has not yet issued a single permission for Russian military aircraft to enter Lithuanian airspace in April, officials said.

Sources in the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry told BNS that several Russian military planes flew over Lithuania this month with permissions issued in March.

Ministry officials said permissions would be given only for Russian transport flights in the meantime.

The issue of permissions was tightened after a March 29 incident, when three Russian Mi-29 helicopters, flying at a low altitude, passed over some residential districts of Vilnius.

As a result of the incident, the State Defense Council decided last week to prepare new regulations concerning the use of Lithuanian airspace.

Foreign Ministry officials were unable to answer when would the new regulations be ready and whether restrictions on Russian military flights would last long.

Meanwhile, representatives of the Russian Baltic Sea Fleet told BNS that all transport flights from Russia to the Kaliningrad have been suspended because of Lithuania's refusal to issue permissions. A Russian officer said on condition of anonymity that Lithuania's actions may jeopardize a planned visit to Kaliningrad by the Russian navy's commander, Adm. Feliks Gromov, who is to inspect the Baltic Sea Fleet next week.

According to Russian military sources, possibilities for Russian aircraft to fly to Kaliningrad through Latvian or even Polish airspace are under consideration.

Januska Initials EU Associate Membership Draft

LD1204163495 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1100 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Announcer Algimantas Sadukas] The European Agreement on Associate Membership between the Republic of Lithuania and the European Union and its 15 members was initialled in Brussels at 1100 today.

The agreement was initialled by Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Albinas Januska, on behalf of Lithuania, and by (Alain Meus), the director of the General Directorate of Foreign Policy of the European Commission, on behalf of the European Union. The agreement was also initialled by Latvia and Estonia. The agreement is to be signed in May.

Upon initialling the agreement, Albinas Januska gave a statement. The statement says: Negotiations with the European Union on the European Agreement came to an end today. These negotiations, from the symbolic point of view, had lasted five years. Who could have believed that Lithuania would need just five years for this? On the other hand, [such a short period of time] is not surprising, if we bear in mind that Lithuania was striving for this [associate membership]. [passage omitted]

We look at our accomplishments of the past five year period and we have no doubts that we will meet our commitments on our way to Europe and on our way to full EU membership, the statement by Albinas Januska said. [passage omitted]

Opposition Condemns Curbs on Local Councils' Powers

LD1204100895 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 12 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Seven opposition parties which are represented in the Lithuanian Seimas are demanding that the implementation of the cabinet's resolution of 29 March, stipulating that local councils should transfer some of their functions to district governors, is cancelled immediately.

The Conservatives, the Christian Democrats, the Social Democrats, the Democrats, the Center Union, the Union of Political Prisoners and Deportees, and the National Union circulated a statement today pointing out that the ruling Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDLP], which has lost the local council elections, is now investing every effort to reduce the powers of the new local councils and to hamper their work.

According to the cabinet resolution, the local councils should transfer their departments of agriculture, land exploitation and construction services, archives management, health care, and some other institutions to the district governors. The staff, premises, funds, and material resources should be transferred along with the functions not later than 15 April.

Such a hasty reorganization will cause confusion and will largely hamper the work of the new municipalities, the statement by the opposition parties says. [passage omitted]

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